

A comic book style illustration of Darth Vader. He is shown from the waist up, leaning forward with a menacing expression. His black armor is highly detailed with highlights and shadows. He is holding a red lightsaber in his right hand, which is visible in the bottom left corner. The background is a dark, rocky landscape under a hazy, orange sky. The title "STAR WARS" is written in large, bold, white letters with a red outline, and "PANEL TO PANEL" is written in smaller, white, sans-serif letters below it.

STAR WARS®

PANEL TO PANEL

FROM THE PAGES OF DARK HORSE COMICS
TO A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY

STAR WARS®

PANEL TO PANEL

Art by Tsuneo Sanda.
Originally published as the wraparound
cover of Star Wars 2002 Backlist Catalog.

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FROM THE PAGES OF DARK HORSE COMICS
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TEXT BY
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Star Wars®: Panel to Panel

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A WORD ABOUT THE CONTENTS

In December of 1991, Dark Horse Comics published *Star Wars: Dark Empire #1*—the first in what has become a long line of *Star Wars* comics and graphic novels. In the years since, comics writers and artists from all over the world have contributed to the *Star Wars* canon, telling and illustrating stories encompassing every era of the timeline, from adventures set thousands of years before the Prequel Trilogy, to tales extending well beyond the events in the Original Trilogy. For many of these time periods (and the worlds, species, and characters featured therein), the comics have been the only source for visual representations—and many of these illustrations have been quite spectacular. Until now, some of these images have never been seen except as comic-book covers plastered with logos, blurbs, and bar codes.

What we have endeavored to do here is provide a sampling of the best of the cover illustrations and interior pages from more than a decade of comics. Deciding which images to include from Dark Horse's nearly six hundred *Star Wars* publications has been no easy task. For several months, fellow editor Jeremy Barlow and I fussed first over boxes of comics and graphic novel collections, then over a mountain of photocopies, finally narrowing the selections down to what we thought was a reasonable, manageable stack. As I began to arrange the contents of this book page by page, it became clear that our "manageable stack" contained far more material than for which I had space. I'm sure, many readers will have favorites that do not appear within. Given that there were so many beautiful and compelling images from which to choose (with more images arriving for our current line of comics almost every day!), and only so much space available, cuts had to be made. If this volume is deemed successful, perhaps some day there can be another. For those pieces that have been included, we have credited the artist(s), and indicated where and when the piece was originally published and, if applicable, in which graphic novel collection it can currently be seen. Where story pages have been presented, the writers have also been credited.

Involving nearly as much discussion as what would be included in this book was how the material would be presented. Should the images be arranged chronologically according to their place in the *Star Wars* timeline? Or, should they appear in the order in which they first saw print? Either of these methods had its own set of drawbacks. Placed along the timeline of a galaxy far, far away, those characters with whom readers would be most familiar would not appear until the latter part of the book. Arranged in publication sequence, characters and scenes from vastly different eras would appear side-by-side with no apparent rhyme or reason. Finally, we decided upon grouping images according to their subject matter: heroes, villains, alien worlds, and so on. This method still left us with a few interesting juxtapositions, but it succeeded in highlighting the ebb and flow of the recurring themes upon which the *Star Wars* saga is built.

For those readers curious to know exactly when certain stories take place, or for those interested in further exploring the rich galaxy of *Star Wars* comics and graphic novels, a *Star Wars* timeline is included at the end of this book.

Randy Stradley

April 2004

HEROES AND ALLIES



LUKE SKYWALKER



Farm boy ... dreamer ... pilot ... Jedi.

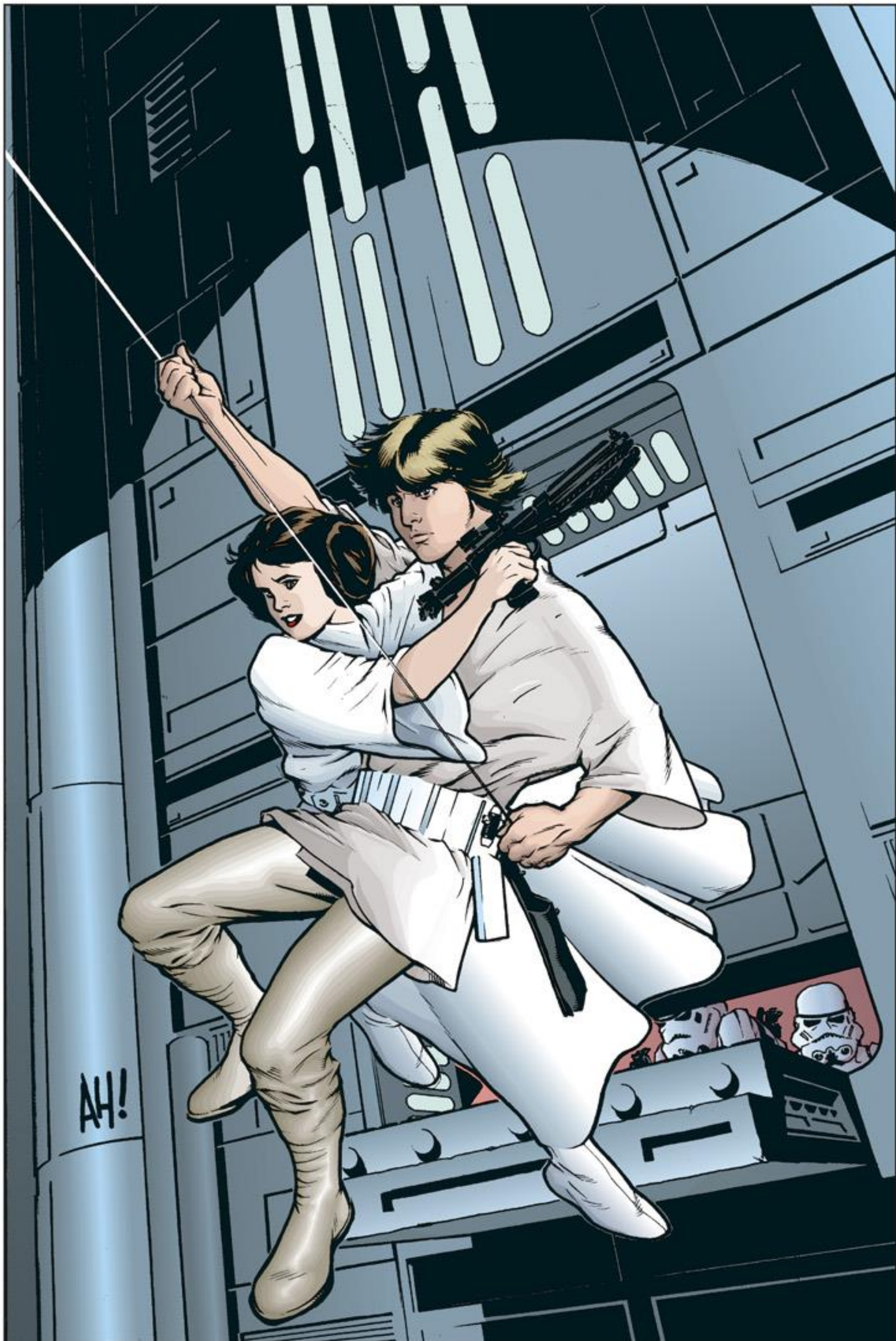
Luke Skywalker is the quintessential hero; the Everyman driven by his own sense of justice, yet fated by his heritage to stand at the crux between the destruction of a galaxy—or its salvation. In his choices we see reflected our hopes, in his abilities our desires. So, he didn't get the girl in the films—it turned out she was his sister, anyway. But he did get the lightsaber, the coolest spaceship, and he got to blow up the Death Star!



Nobody likes their heroes to be too sure of themselves—at least not at first. Growing up on Tatooine, Luke had plenty of opportunities to question himself, but he always did the right thing.



In 1994, when Dark Horse re-printed the movie adaptations originally published by Marvel Comics, new covers were commissioned—providing an opportunity for a new generation of comics artists to produce these interpretations of classic scenes.





BIGGS! OF COURSE, I'LL BE UP THERE WITH YOU. LISTEN, HAVE I GOT SOME STORIES TO TELL YOU...

BIGGS HAS A FEW STORIES
OF HIS OWN THAT HE'S DYING
TO TELL LUKE. BUT HE WONDERS ...

... WHAT COULD HAVE OCCURRED IN THE LIFE OF HIS FRIEND IN THE FEW SHORT DAYS SINCE HE LAST SAW HIM ON TATOOINE?

WHAT BROUGHT LUKE HERE ...
TO THE REBEL STRONGHOLD
ON YAVIN 4?

BUT EVENTS PRESS ON THEM,
AND SOON IT IS ESTABLISHED
THEY'LL BE FLYING *TOGETHER*.

BIGGS IS RED THREE
AND LUKE, RED FIVE.



Previous page: Though most of the footage shot for *Star Wars: A New Hope* involving Luke's boyhood friend Biggs Darklighter ended up on the cutting room floor, those scenes were resurrected and expanded upon to reveal that Biggs' path to joining the Rebel Alliance was nearly as adventurous as Luke's. This page: in 1997, when the Special Editions of the original trilogy were released, Dark Horse commissioned all new art for a retelling of *A New Hope*.



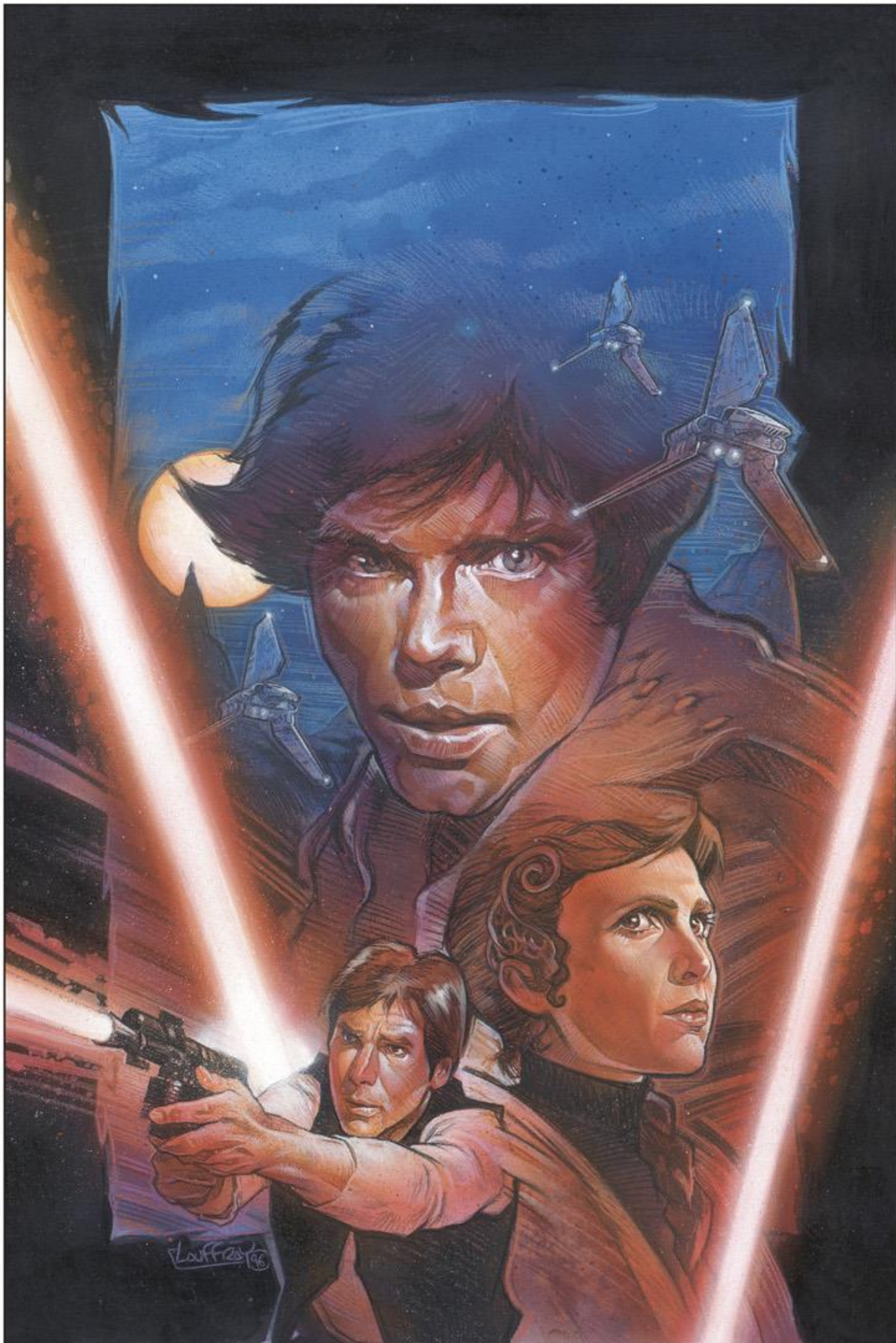
Luke and Leia crash landed on Circarpous V in one of the earliest *Star Wars* novels, *Splinter of the Mind's Eye* (1978), by Alan Dean Foster. The story was adapted to comics in 1995. This image appeared on the cover in issue #1 of the series.







Shortly before Dark Horse began publishing *Star Wars* comics, a new series of novels by Timothy Zahn hit the bookstores. Expanding on these immensely popular novels (*Heir to the Empire*, *Dark Force Rising*, and *The Last Command*), the comics series *Dark Empire* revealed the exploits of Luke, Leia, and the others in the years following *Return of the Jedi*. Eventually, Dark Horse published comics adaptations of the novels, as well.



Next pages: For a time, resurrecting the Emperor and supplying the Empire with ever more powerful super weapons seemed to be requisite elements for new *Star Wars* stories. But it was Luke nearly succumbing to the dark side of the Force that held readers' attention in the *Dark Empire* trilogy. By this point in the storyline, Han and Leia were husband and wife, and expecting their third child.



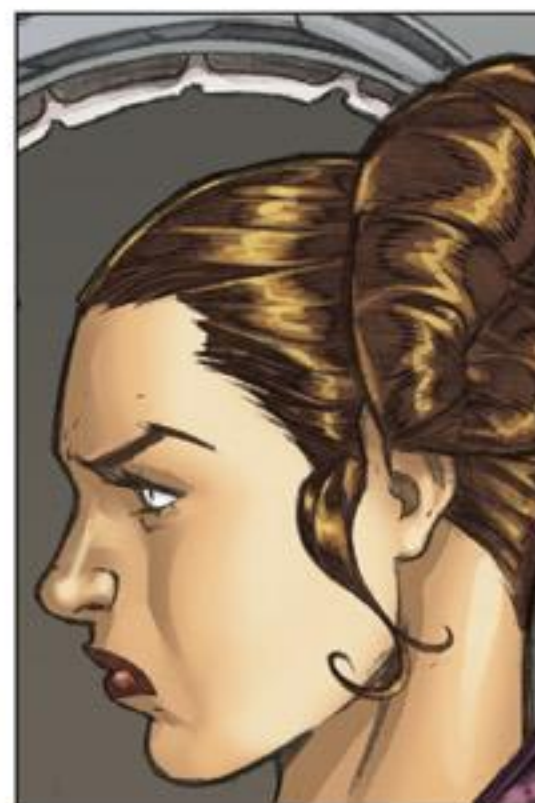
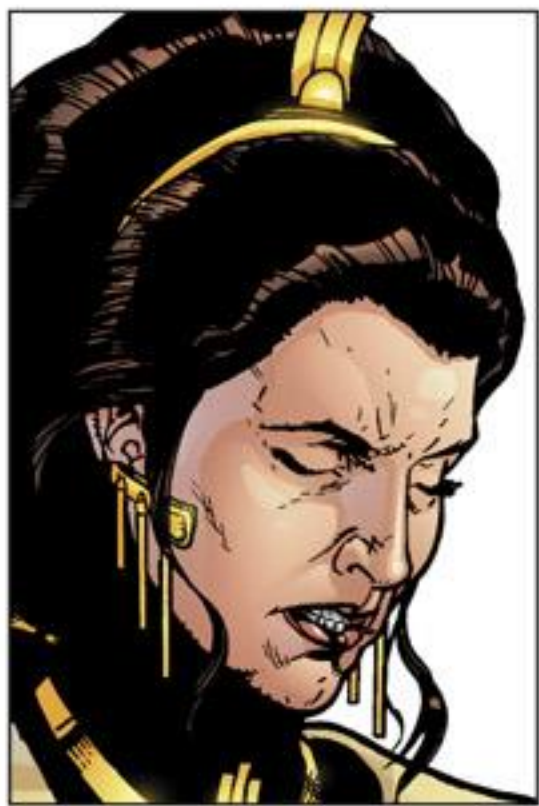


Did we mention that Luke nearly succumbed to the dark side?

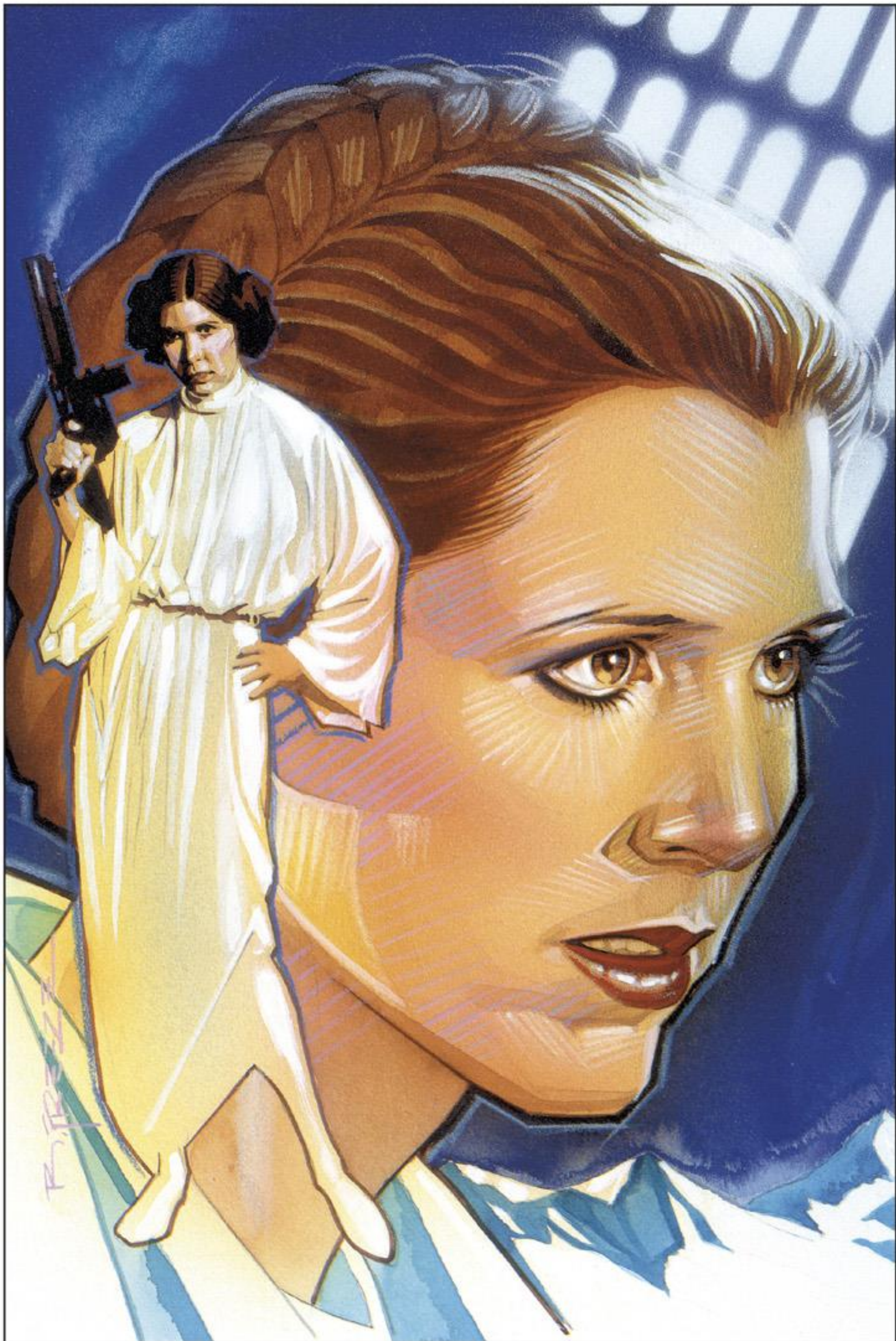


Luke found true love—with the former Imperial assassin and one-time dark side adept Mara Jade.

LEIA ORGANA



Without her raw courage, well-timed sarcasm, and strong leadership, the Rebel Alliance might never have won the all-important victory at Yavin. She rarely flew a spaceship, and she didn't own a lightsaber, but there's no doubt that Leia was the heart of the Rebellion. By the time the secret was revealed, it was easy to believe that Leia was Luke's twin. The Force was strong in her, but it manifested itself in her ability to lead and inspire rather than in martial prowess. Still, she was no slouch with a blaster—as she proved many times. And eventually she got to let her hair down...



Leia as she was when we were first introduced to her...



...and as the male fans will always remember her.



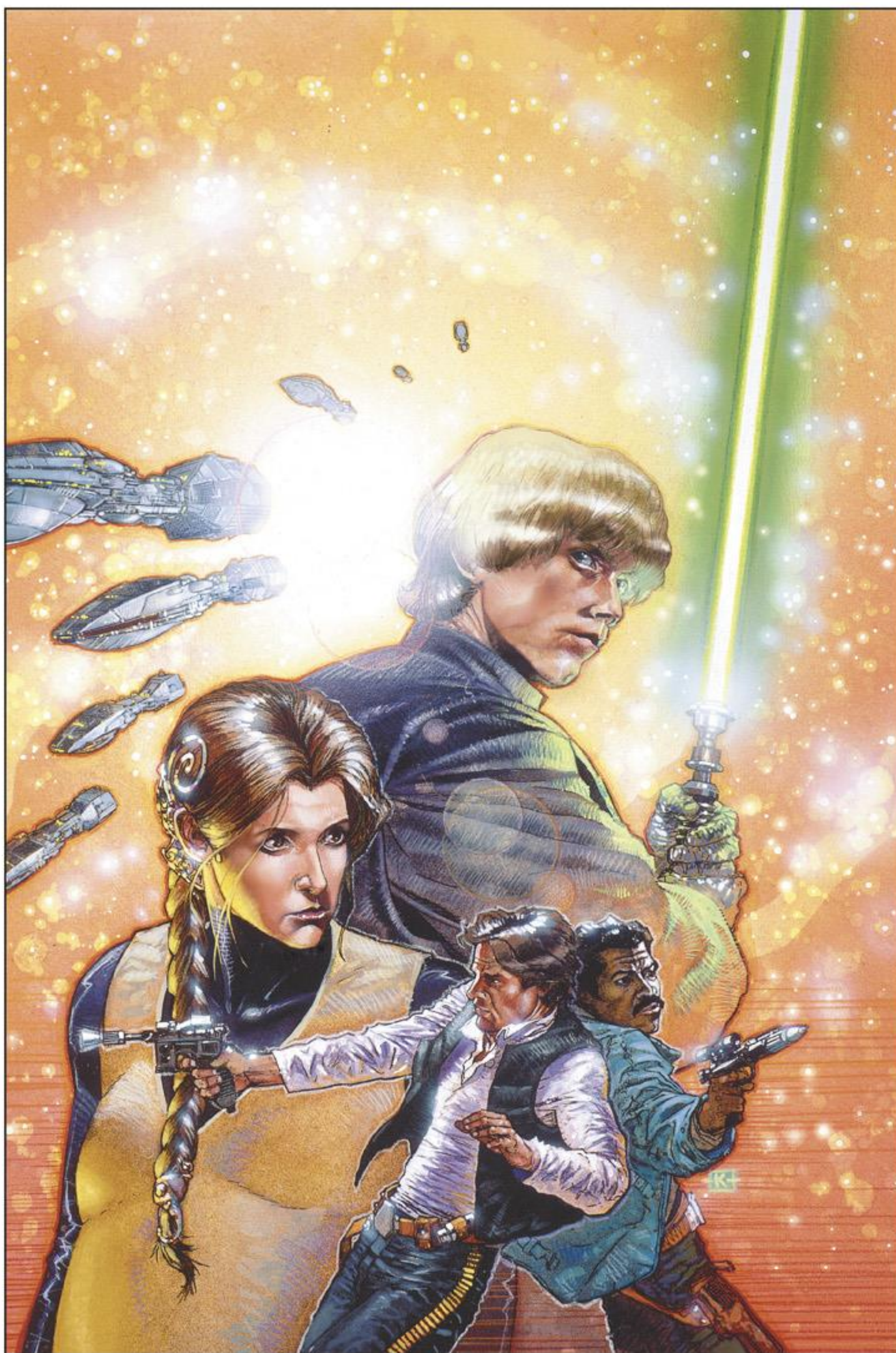
After the Battle of Yavin, Leia was in demand as a spokesperson for the Alliance, helping to recruit new systems to the Rebellion. While diplomacy was her strong suit, she was well versed in other methods of persuasion.



Stranded in the icy wastelands of the planet Hoth, Leia and Han shared tender feelings for one another, as well as body heat.



In 1996, Dark Horse joined LucasArts, Ballantine Books, Hasbro Toys, and other *Star Wars* licensees in *Shadows of the Empire*, an organized exploration of the previously untold events that occurred between the end of *The Empire Strikes Back* and the beginning of *Return of the Jedi*. Here Leia and Chewbacca have disguised themselves as bounty hunters to infiltrate the criminal organization Black Sun. Note that Leia is wearing the “Boushh” disguise she uses to gain entry to Jabba’s palace in *Return of the Jedi*.

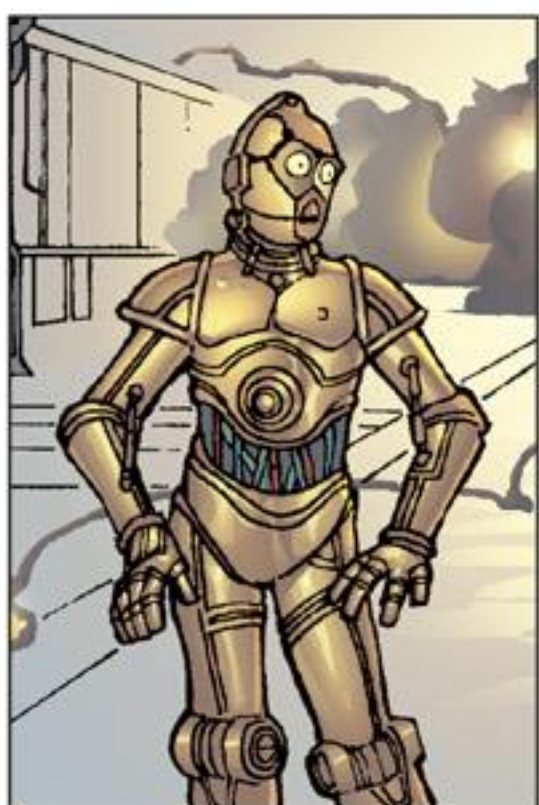


Even pregnancy couldn't keep Leia on the sidelines when duty called.

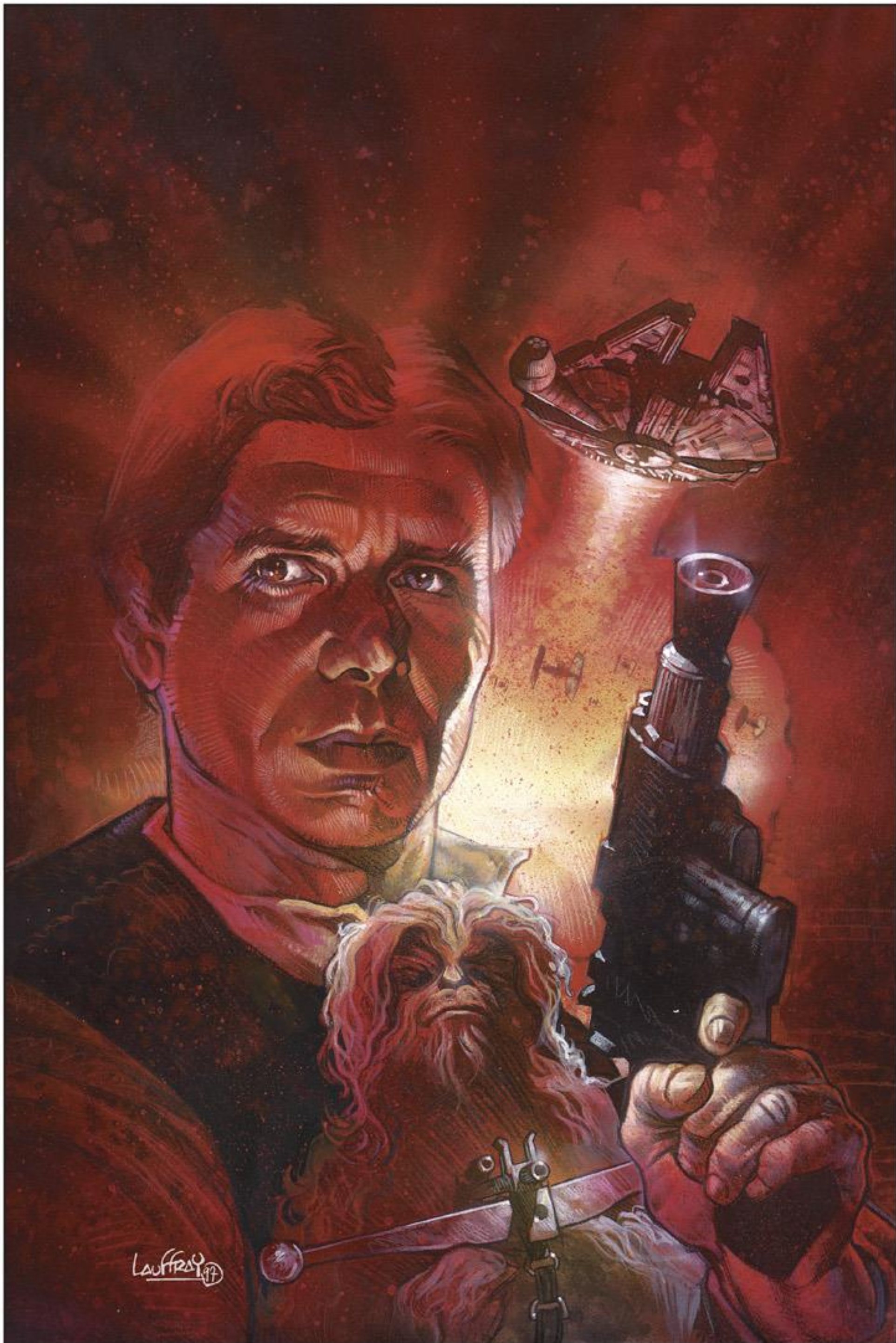


Though Leia considered following in Luke's footsteps and becoming a Jedi, she realized the New Republic was better served by her political experience than her fencing skills.

HAN SOLO, CHEWBACCA, AND OTHER HEROES



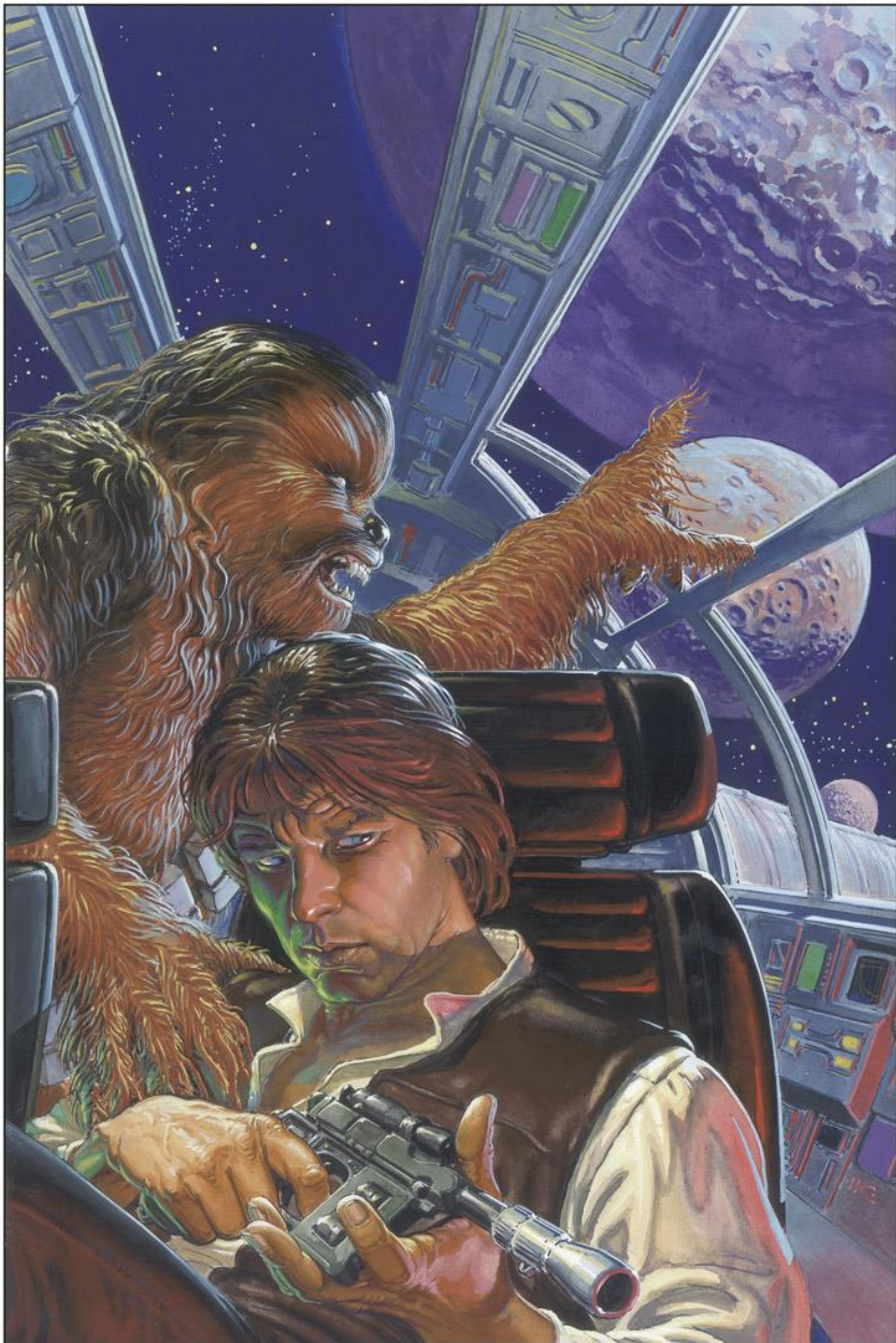
Left to their own devices, they might never have become more than the rogues or buffoons they already were. But once they crossed paths with Luke and Leia, they were swept up in the spirit of freedom and became themselves shining lights of the Rebellion. In fact, it was their rough edges and sometimes reluctant—sometimes blundering—heroics that endeared them to us. Though we might wish for the stoicism of a Jedi, we know in our hearts that we might really be a Han, Lando, or Chewie—or even a Threepio.



Han Solo. His name suggests a loner, but Han rarely went anywhere without Chewbacca by his side. Theirs was a relationship that defied expectations, and it was obvious there was a brotherhood present that went far beyond the necessity to complete the next smuggler's run.



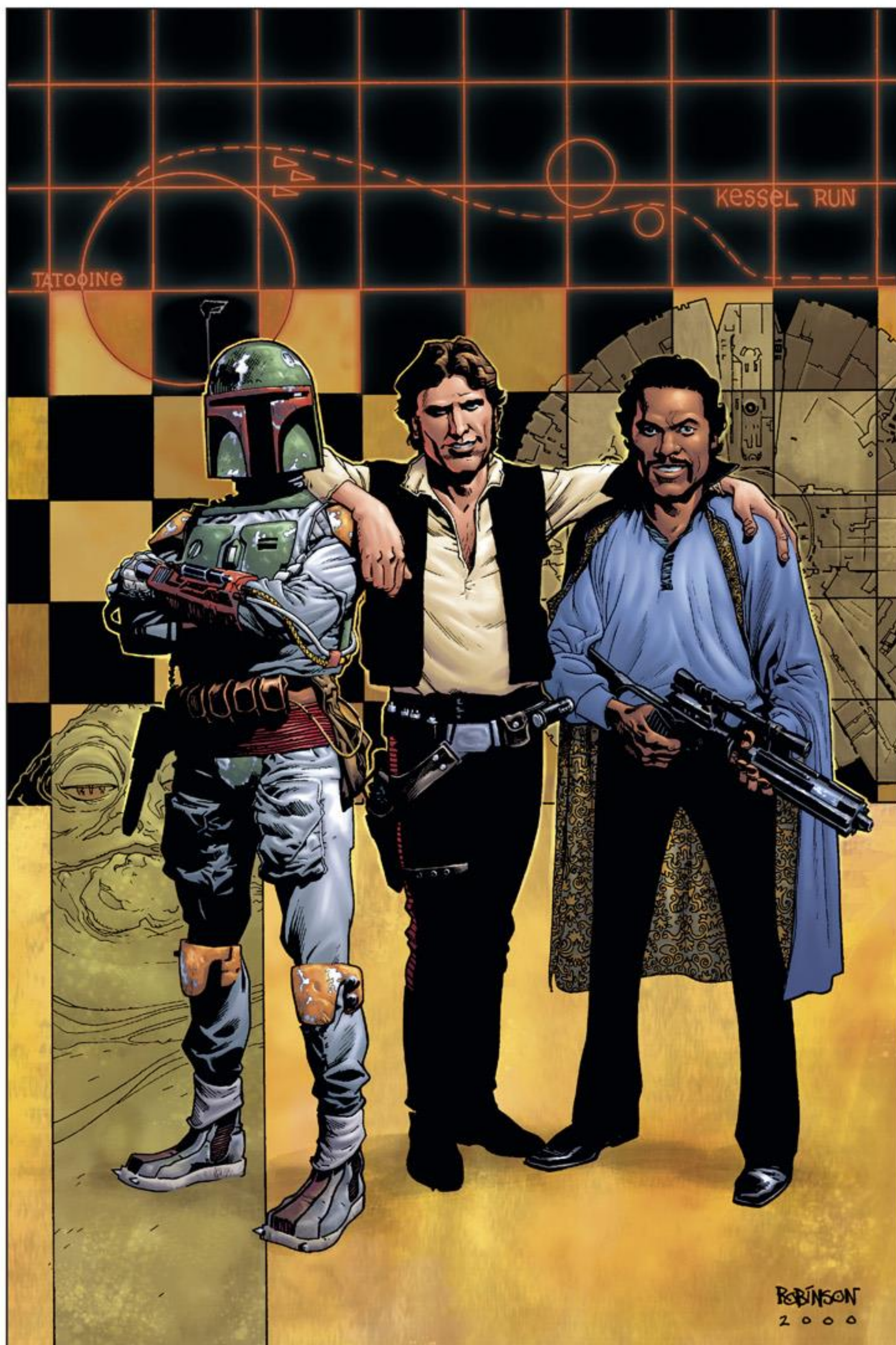
As much a part of the team as either Han or Chewie was the *Millennium Falcon*. The souped-up Corellian freighter was a smuggler's dream machine. She once belonged to Lando Calrissian, who lost her in a bet to Han.



The ship's bridge and hold became the setting for numerous pivotal scenes in the *Star Wars* mythos, and artists quickly realized that even a portion of her distinctive, sectioned front viewport was enough not only to establish the setting, but to evoke in the viewer the thrill of *Star Wars*-style space travel.

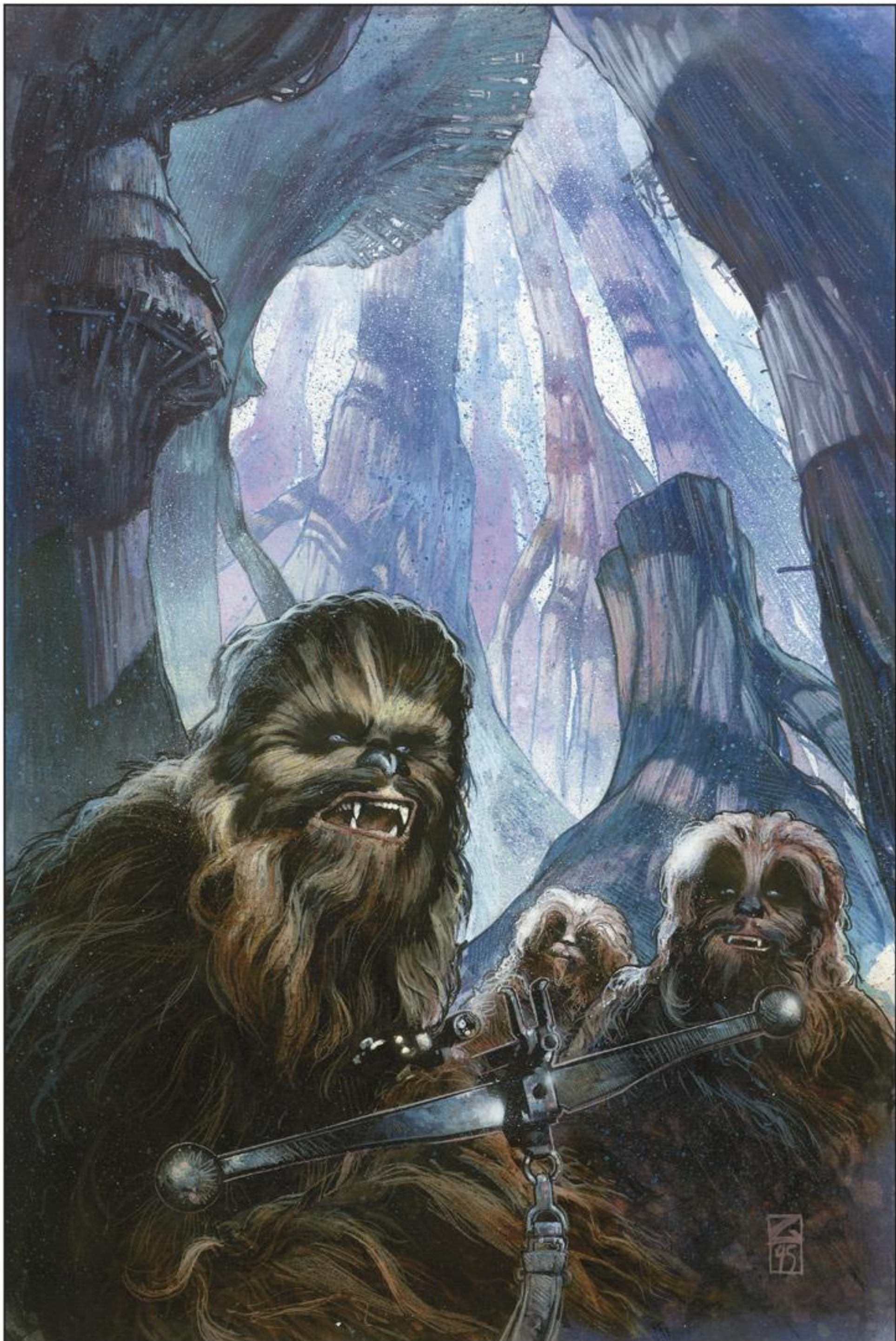


When audiences were first introduced to the galaxy's greatest smuggler, he had a price on his head. His "wanted" status brought Han to the attention of the galaxy's greatest bounty hunter, Boba Fett—resulting in an adversarial relationship that continued for years to come, as this cover from an issue of *Dark Empire II* attests. This despite the fact that, in happier times, Han, Lando, and Fett had occasion to work together (facing page).





Though he was primarily seen as Han's sidekick, Chewbacca had his time in the spotlight, as in this confrontation with a wampa.



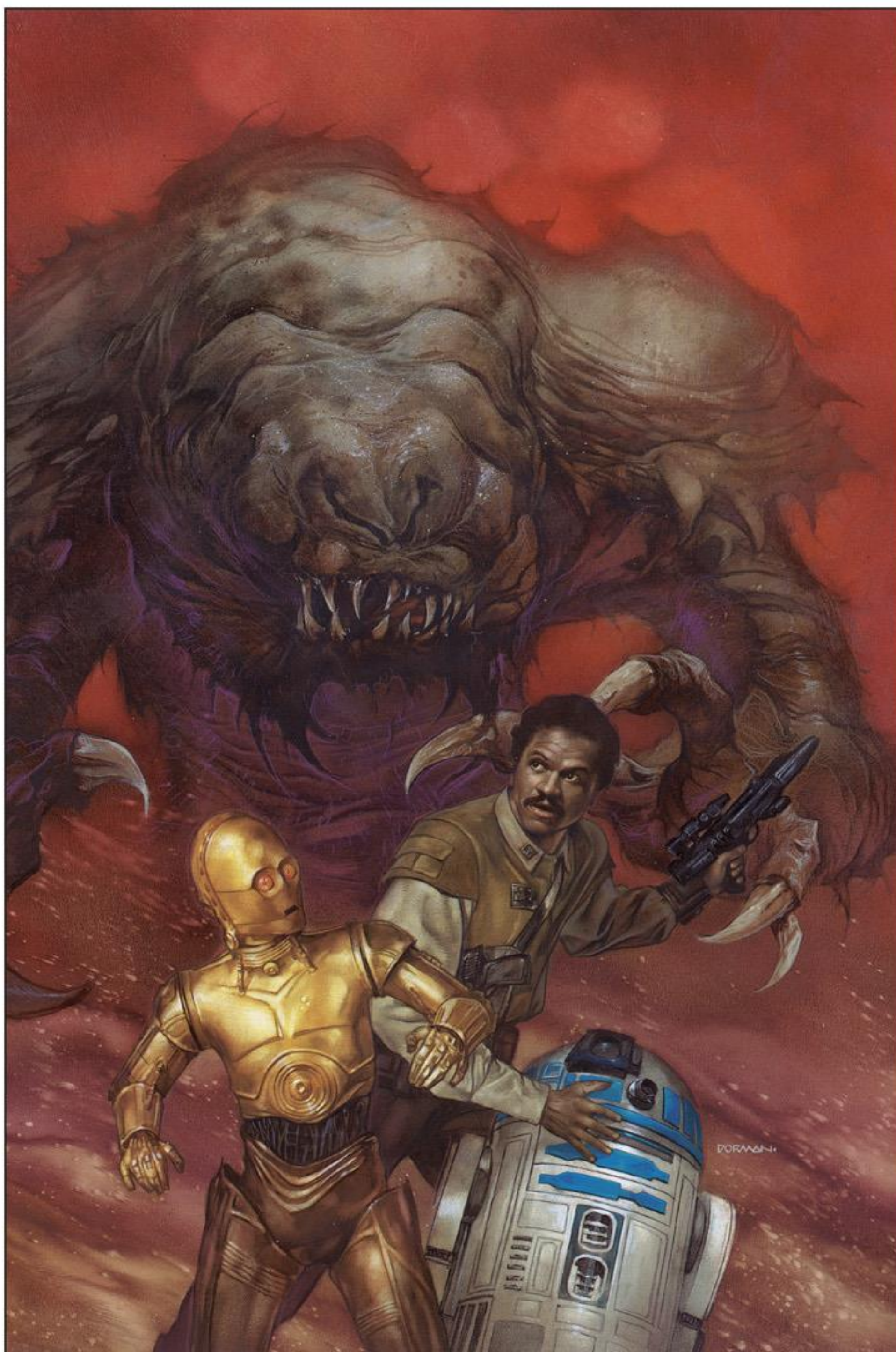
Chewbacca among his own kind.



A moment that rocked *Star Wars* fandom: Chewie dies. A scene that first occurred in R. A. Salvatore's New Jedi Order novel *Vector Prime*.



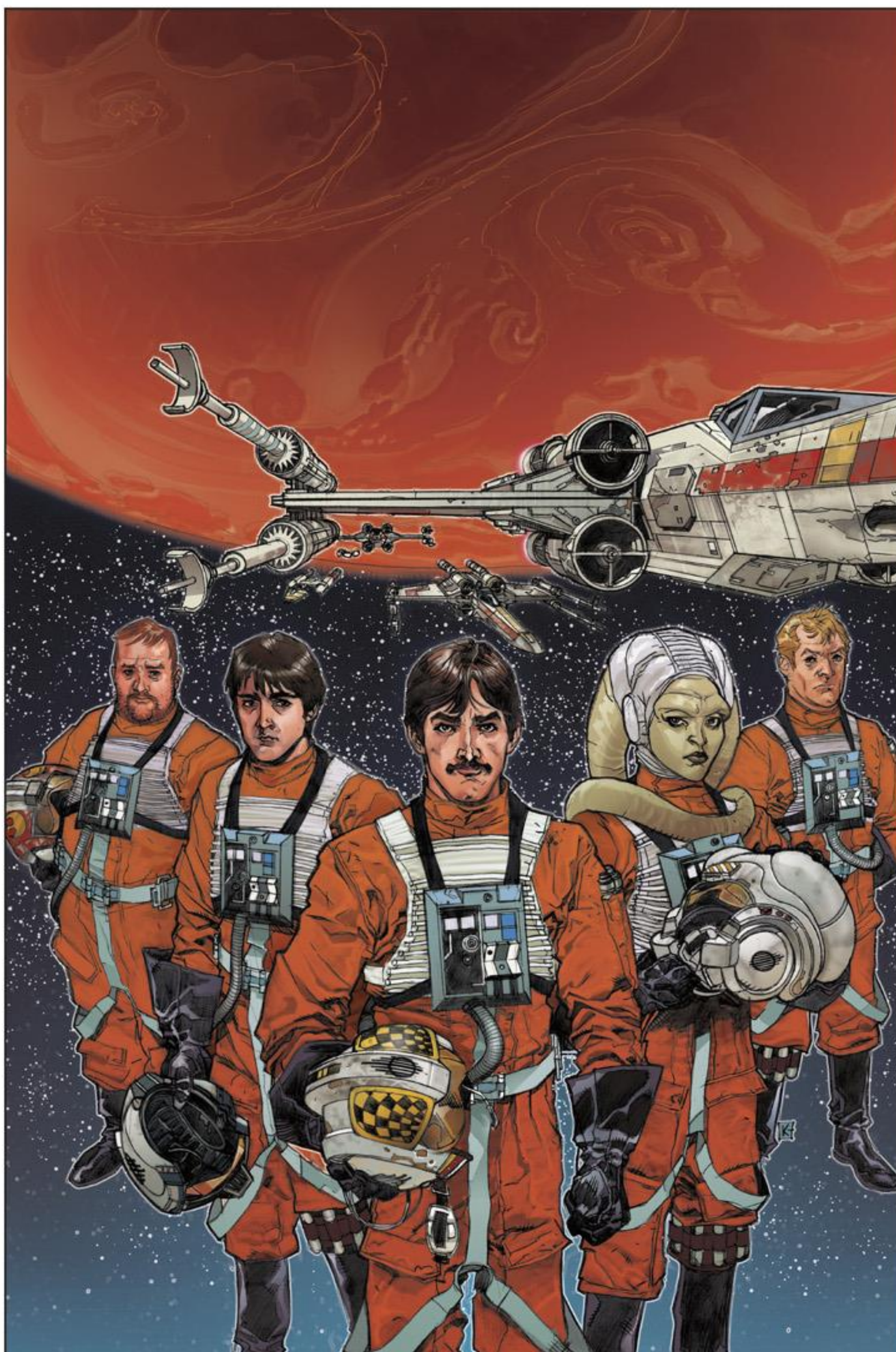
If anybody in the *Star Wars* galaxy could be called a jack of all trades, it was Lando Calrissian. He was, at one time or another, a gambler, the administrator of Cloud City, a general (and hero) in the Rebel Alliance, and a respected businessman—as much to his surprise and anyone else's.



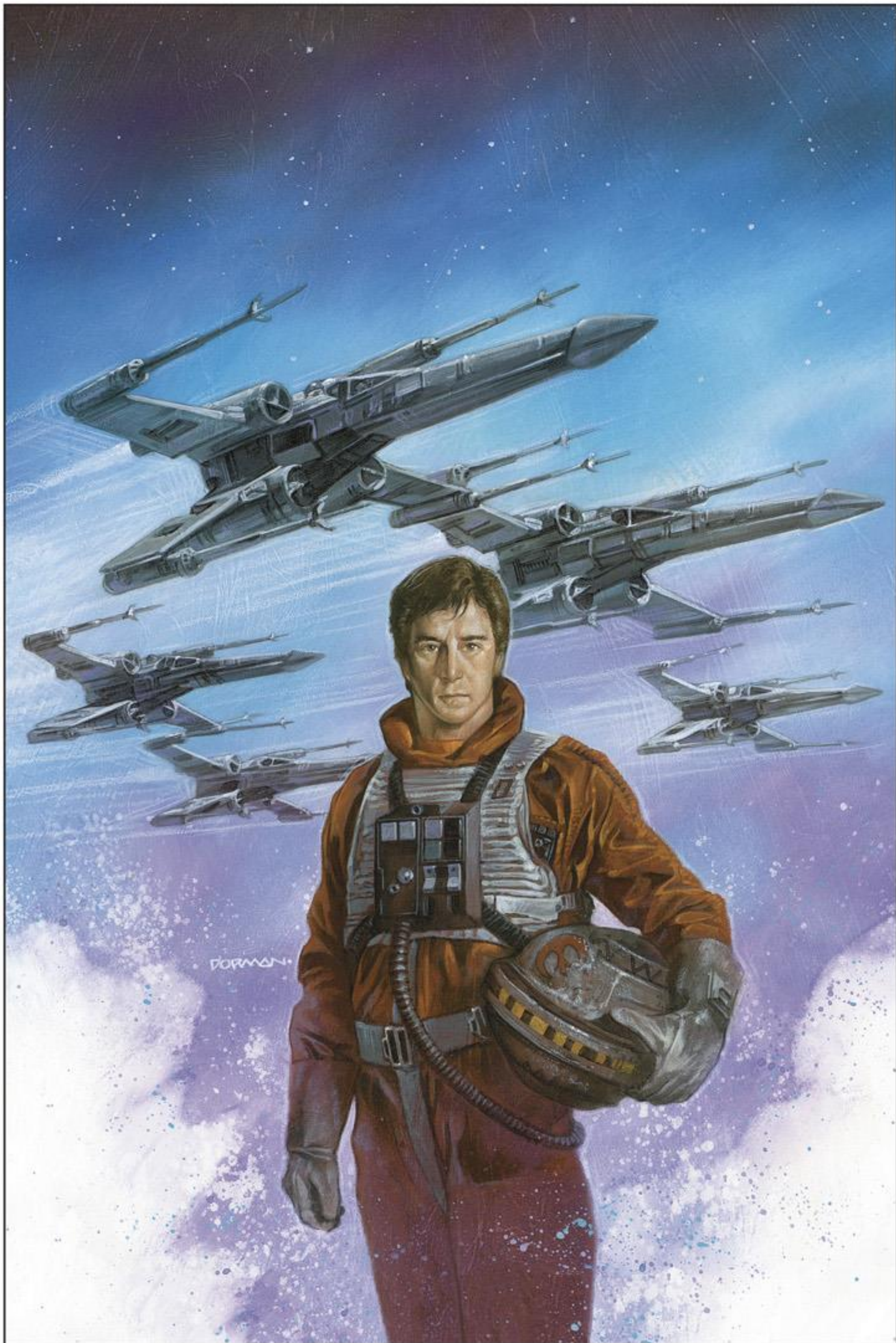
Lando maintained his cool (well, almost) even when confronted by a rancor. R2-D2 remained the pluckiest droid in the galaxy. Unfortunately, even the *concept* of cool escaped C-3P0...



Innocents adrift or unwitting heroes?



From left to right: Jek Porkins, Wedge Antilles, Biggs Darklighter, Cesi "Doc" Eiriss, and Garven Dreis—the members of Red Squadron ready for a mission that preceded the Battle of Yavin.



Designated Red Two during the Battle of Yavin, Wedge Antilles went on to become one of the Rebellion's greatest pilots, and eventually a general for the New Republic. He is particularly famous for his role as commander of Rogue Squadron, the pilots who were often given the Alliance's most dangerous assignments.



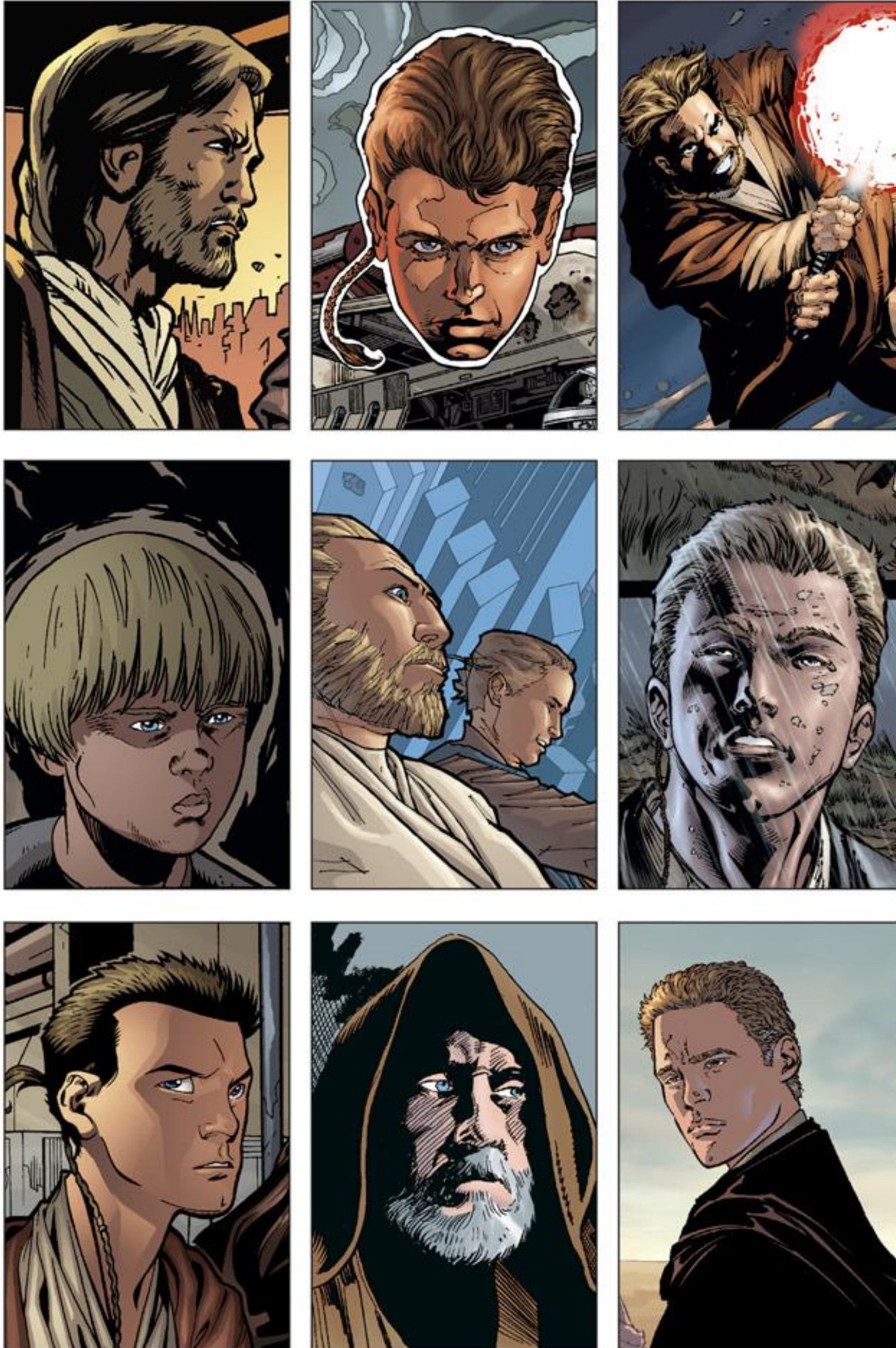
The future Mrs. Skywalker. Mara Jade, once known as “The Emperor’s Hand,” was Palpatine’s foremost assassin. His death sent her on a hunt for Luke, unaware that she would eventually fall in love with the new leader of the Jedi.





Jar Jar Binks: blundering fool, inadvertent hero, and eventually a pawn of the Sith (Jar Jar was the one who proposed to the Senate that Palpatine be granted special, near-dictatorial powers at the onset of the Clone Wars).

OBI-WAN KENOBI AND ANAKIN SKYWALKER



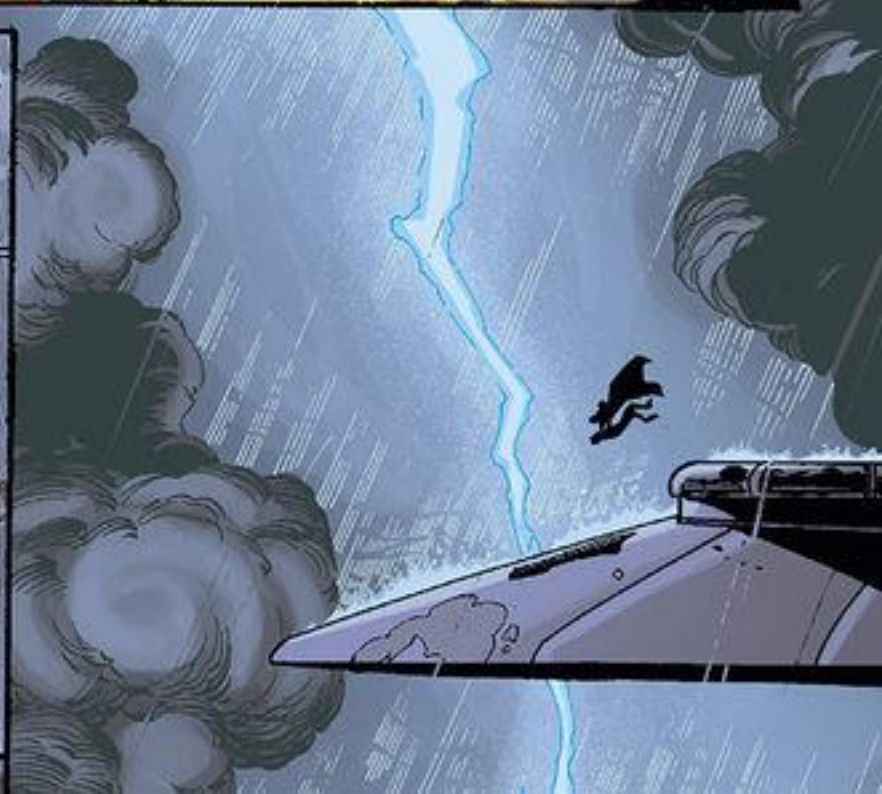
They were the yin to each other's yang. Fans watched Obi-Wan grow from a Padawan learner to the consummate Jedi Master, and Anakin go from a slave boy to a powerful Jedi to, well, more on that later. But while they were together as Master and Padawan and as brothers in arms, they struck a balance that made them an unbeatable team. Obi-Wan listened to the voice of reason, Anakin heeded the call to action. From the planet-metropolis of Coruscant to the arena on Geonosis and back again, their exploits brought them to the attention of those in power ... both good and evil.



After suffering a defeat by Obi-Wan early in the Clone Wars, dark Jedi Asajj Ventress became obsessed with destroying Kenobi—just as he became obsessed with bringing her to justice. In Ventress, Obi-Wan's fears that he was failing Anakin were made flesh.



Obi-Wan Kenobi fought many famous adversaries during his lifetime, including *three* Sith Lords: Darth Maul, Count Dooku, and Darth Vader. Here, and on the pages following, he fights his most notable non-Jedi opponent, the bounty hunter Jango Fett.





General Kenobi. After battling Jango Fett, Obi-Wan's next assignment had him leading an army of Jango's clones against the Separatists in the Clone Wars.



Twenty-some years later, Obi-Wan would find himself allied with new associates against an old enemy—and an old friend.





"Fear leads to anger... anger leads to hate... hate leads to suffering."





TSUNED SANDA



Finding love, forbidden though it might be, seemed to soften Anakin...



...but the secret of it strained his friendship with Obi-Wan.



T. Giorello - III



Whether in victory, or in retreat, the Clone Wars took a heavy toll on the Jedi—physically and spiritually. None seemed so affected as Anakin.

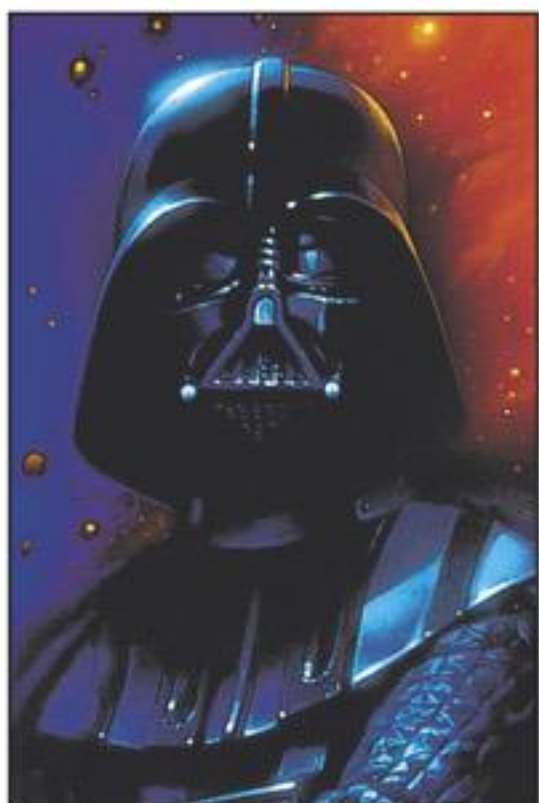


Before the fall.

VILLAINS AND ROGUES



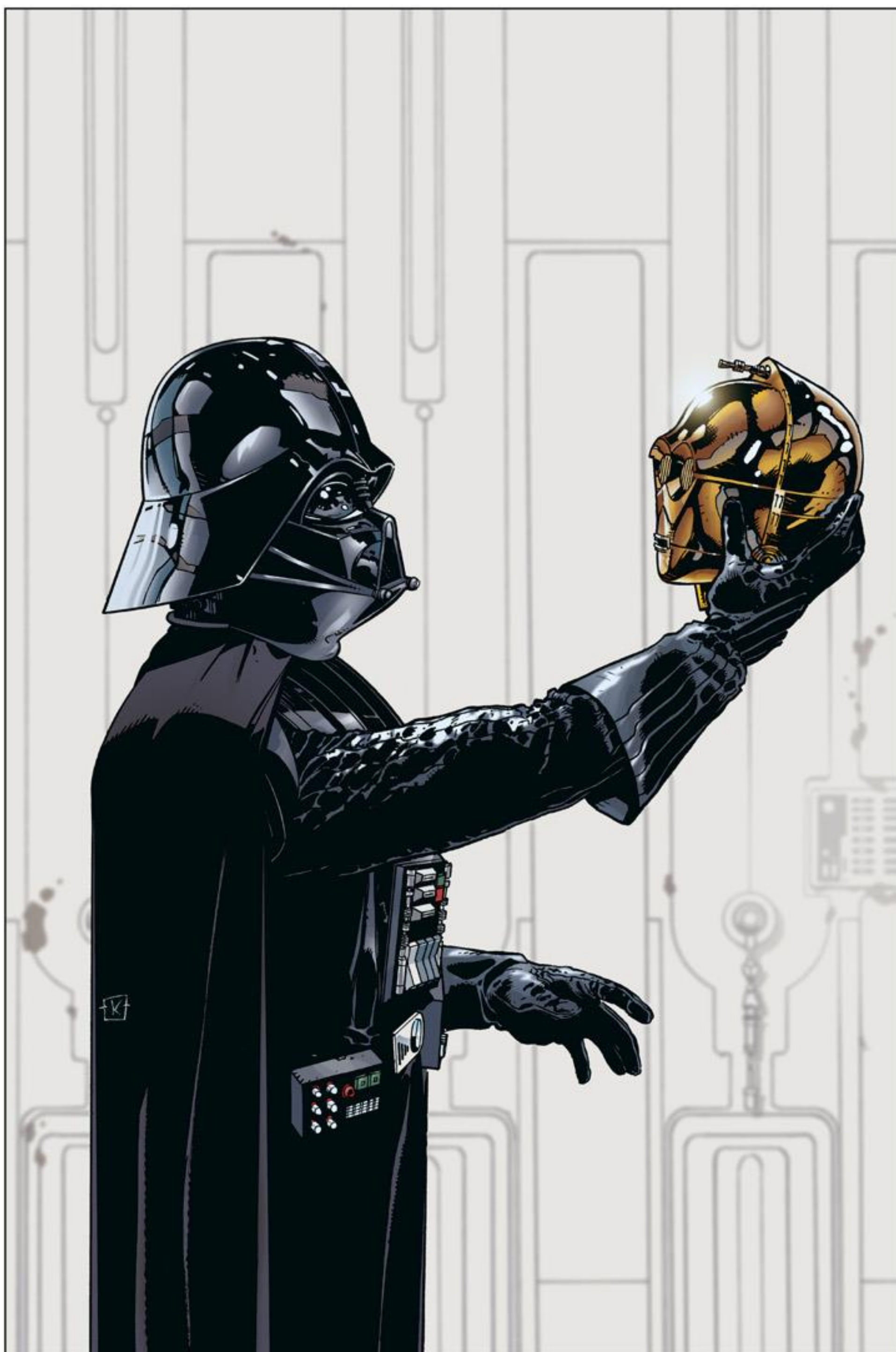
DARTH VADER AND EMPEROR PALPATINE



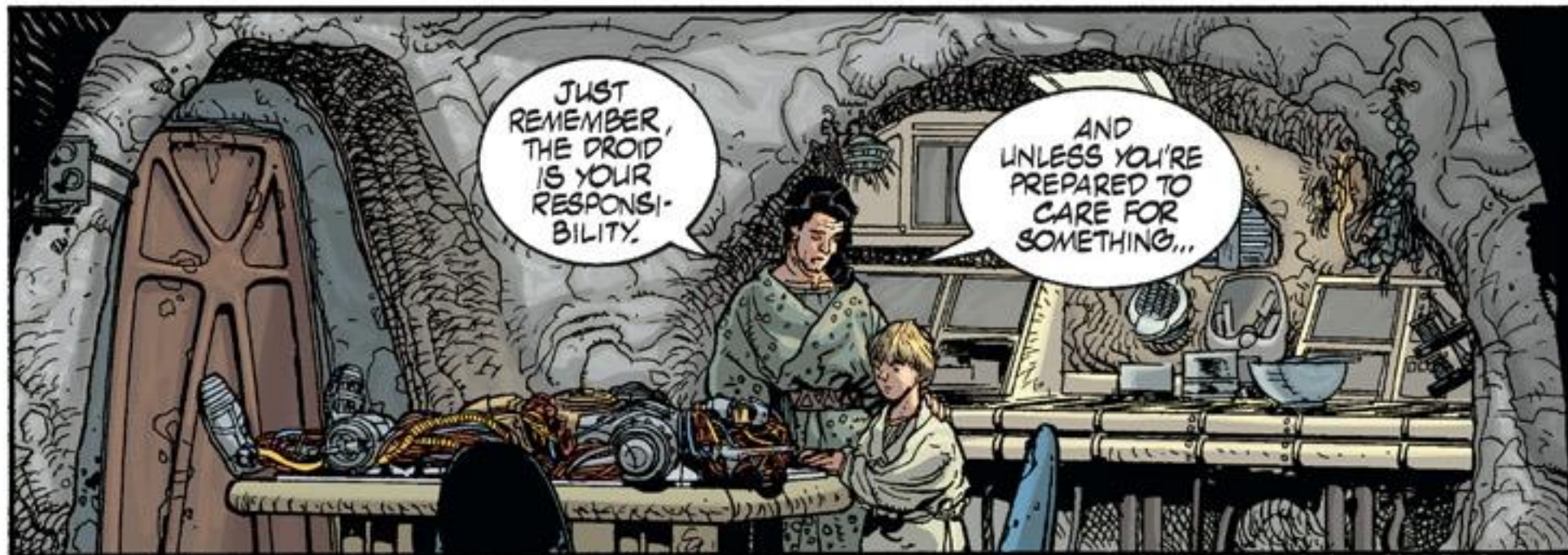
One a boy of near-infinite potential—and boundless rage—steered and controlled from an early age by a master schemer and deceiver whose machinations destroyed a Republic that had stood for thousands of years. The other the deceiver himself, wily, deceptively meek, always pulling strings from behind the scenes, yet brooding and powerful in his own right. Bound to one another by their thirst for power, they ruled the galaxy—until the master tried to destroy the son the apprentice had just begun to know...

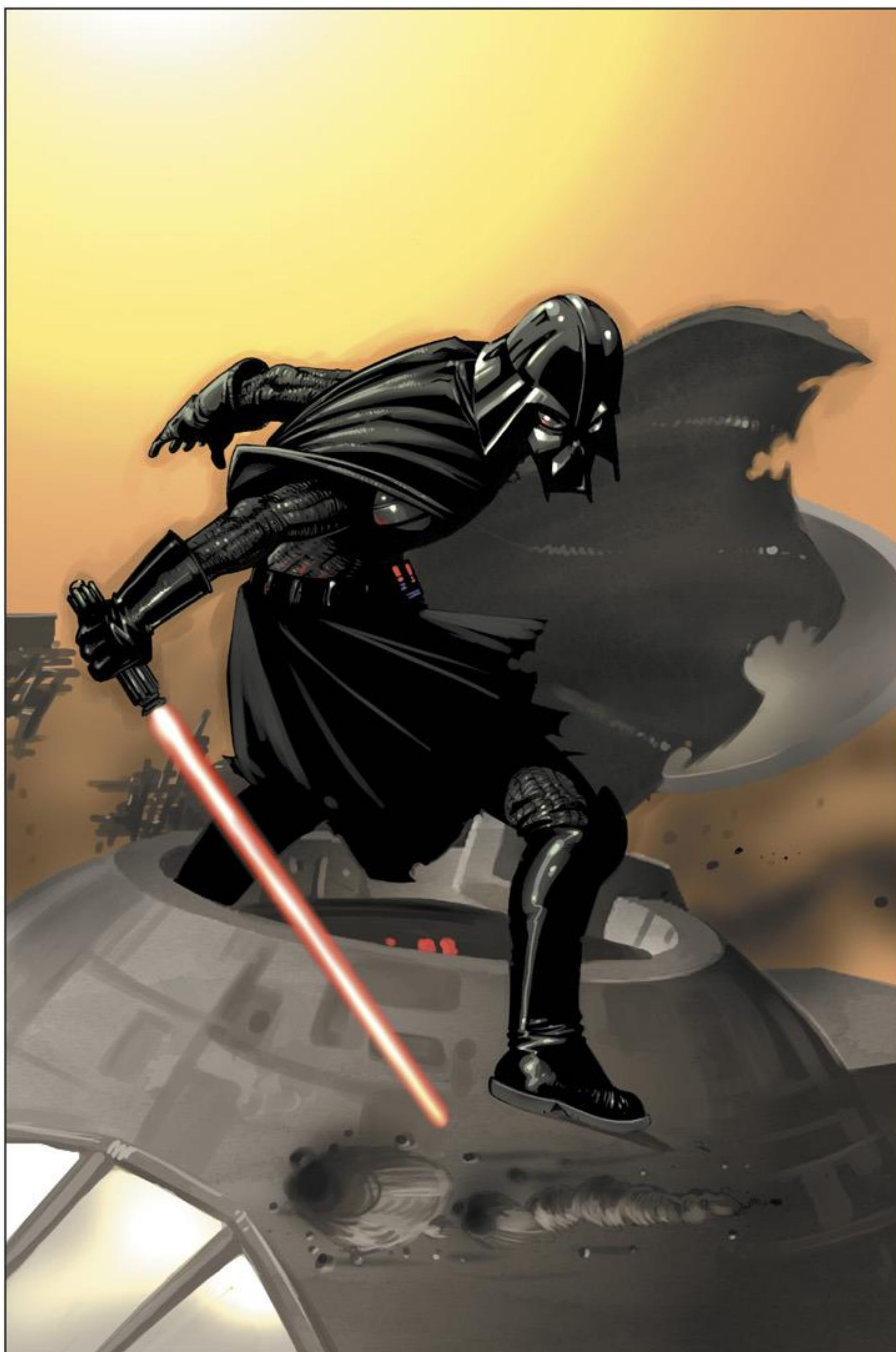


In a galaxy of iconic characters, there is one more instantly recognizable than any other; the icon's icon, if you will: Darth Vader. The story of *Star Wars* is Anakin/Vader's, after all, and every aspect of the character has become so closely associated with the mythos that Lucasfilm has used little more than Vader's labored, mechanical breathing in the soundtrack of the trailers for some of the films—that being enough to raise spontaneous applause from anticipatory audiences.



That Anakin had built C-3P0 from spare parts was not known when the original trilogy was first released. But the events in *The Phantom Menace* suggested new possibilities for a moment on Cloud City that was *not* revealed in *The Empire Strikes Back*.









Whether Vader is viewed in a moment of furious action...



...or caught in a reflective pause...

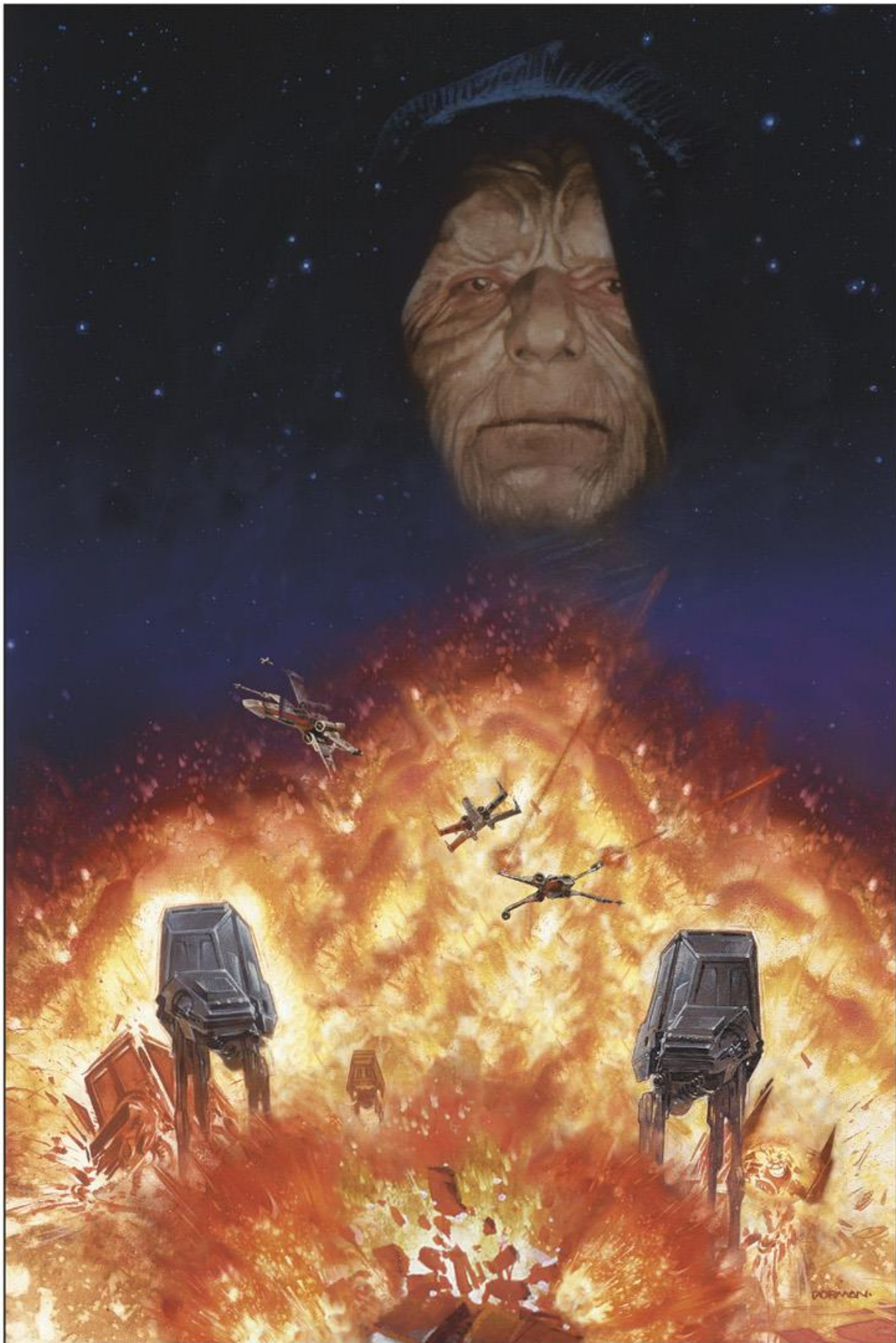


...there is never any question of his power. He *is* the Dark Lord.



Indeed, Vader's presence permeates the entire *Star Wars* saga.





A face only a Sith could love. His visage ravaged by his tapping into the dark side of the Force, Palpatine's plan for galactic dominance was successful, but at a price.



From Senator to Emperor, Palpatine was always the master manipulator. From Jedi Masters to his own apprentices, no one was exempt from his “handling.”



And few understood power—or even the *trappings* of power—as well as Palpatine.



Even after his death in *Return of the Jedi*, Palpatine returned—as a cloned body inhabited by the Emperor's dark side spirit—to vex Luke, Leia, and the others. It wasn't until the events in *Empire's End* (set seven years after *Return of the Jedi*) that our heroes were finally rid of him.



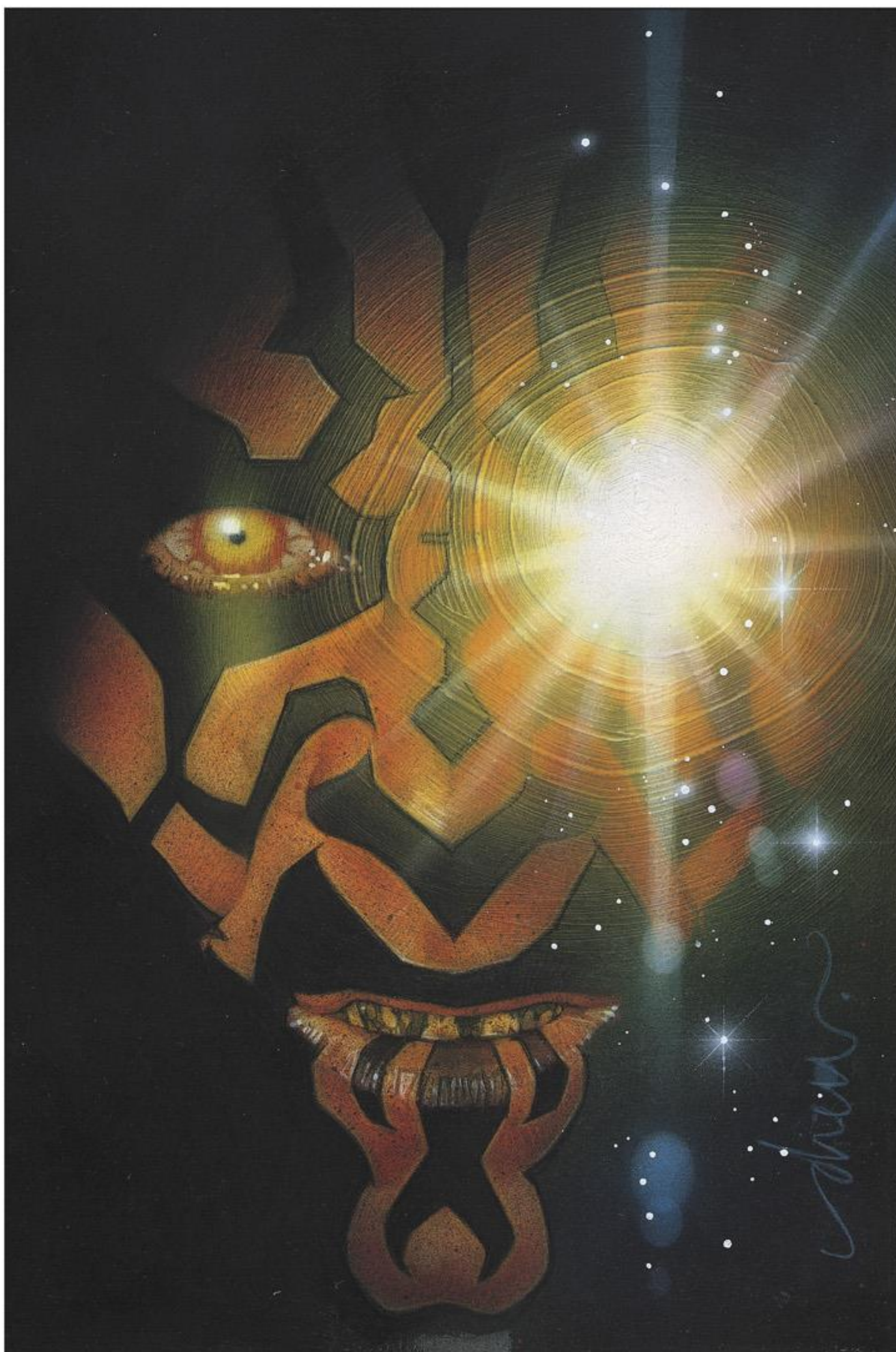
SITH, GRAND MOFFS, AND OTHER MINIONS



On his path from politician to despot, Palpatine was surrounded by men, women, and aliens who turned his words into actions. Some embraced their master's goals of domination with greedy glee and became villains we could all love to hate. Others, possessing scant power or will of their own but existing in greater numbers, were ubiquitous symbols of the Empire—and cannon fodder in its war on freedom.



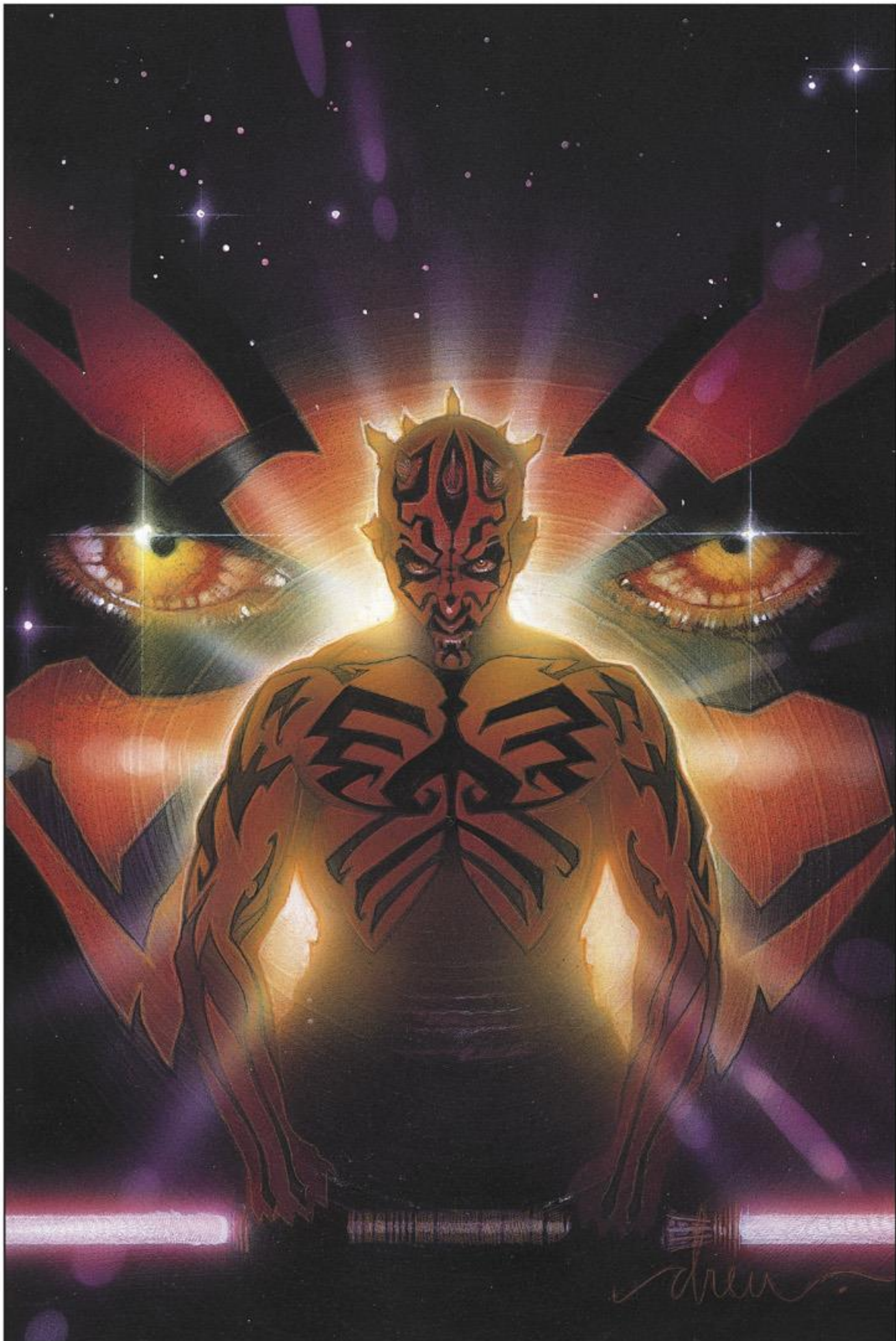
High on the list of popular villains is Darth Maul. Brooding and single-minded, quick to action and slow to speak, he was the embodiment of the Sith threat in *The Phantom Menace*. If writers and artists playing in George Lucas' sandbox, the Expanded Universe, have one universal regret, it is that Maul died too soon.



In 2000, Dark Horse was fortunate enough to obtain the services of artist Drew Struzan—famous for producing the art for numerous film posters, including all of Lucasfilm's *Indiana Jones* series and several of the *Star Wars* films. His covers for the *Darth Maul* miniseries appear on the next four pages.







You didn't think Maul's tattoos stopped at his neck, did you?



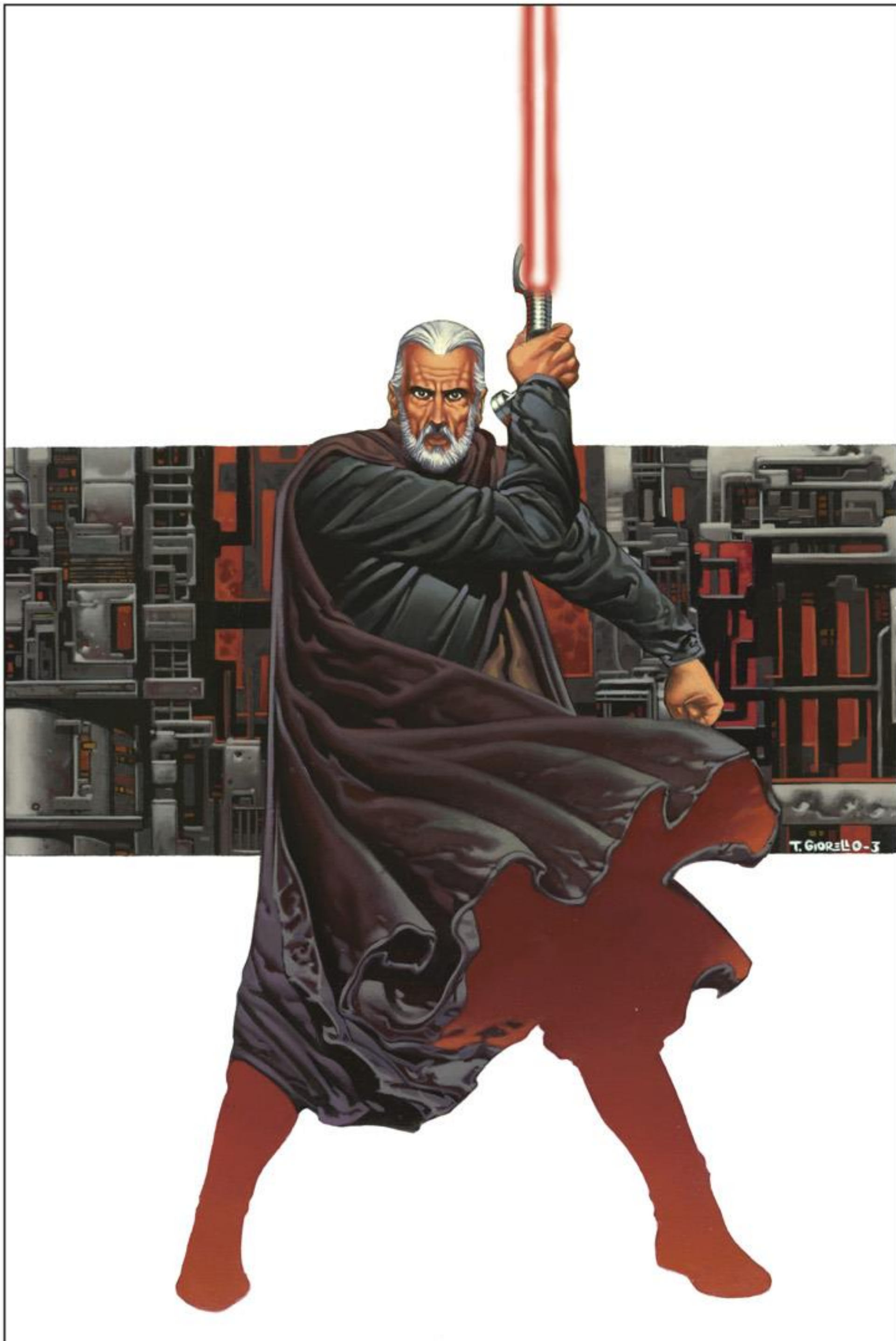
This page and facing: some of the action from the *Darth Maul* series. So hungry were comics readers and creators for more Maul that in 2001 Dark Horse produced an imaginary tale under Lucasfilm's *Infinites* label that twisted time and allowed Darth Maul and Darth Vader to fight one another for Sith supremacy. That story is collected in *Star Wars Tales* Volume 3.



Maybe if the Mon Calamarian says, "please"?



After Maul's demise in *The Phantom Menace*, Darth Sidious looked to the ranks of ex-Jedi for his next apprentice. More sophisticated, more calculating, and if anything deadlier than Maul, Count Dooku (a.k.a. Darth Tyranus) proved himself more than a match for the combined skills of Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker in *Attack of the Clones*.



In *Attack of the Clones*, Dooku tried—unsuccessfully—to sway Obi-Wan to his dark path. In the stories told in the comics, Dooku had better luck with other Jedi, eventually surrounding himself with a cadre of dark Jedi who were anxious to do his evil bidding.



Though he lacked Count Dooku's dark side abilities, Grand Moff Tarkin was no stranger to the exercise of power. Here he addresses a graduating class of Imperial cadets—just a few short months before he issues the order for the destruction of Alderaan.



It could be argued that Tarkin's acts were more despicable than Vader's, but that didn't prevent him (and everybody else) from being overshadowed by Vader's ominous presence.



Some villains became heroes. Here we see the Empire's greatest pilot—Baron Fel—before his capture by, and defection to the Rebel Alliance. Fel epitomized the professional soldier, placing honor above duty. When the truth of the evil behind the Empire's rule became clear to him, he traded his TIE interceptor in for an X-wing and joined the Rebellion.



Some villains remained villains to the end. Imperial Captain Loka Hask gave the Alliance's Rogue Squadron a run for their money in their bid for a Mrlssti cloaking device.



As commanding as Dark Lords, Grand Moffs, and Imperial officers might be, the real day-to-day muscle of the Empire was its stormtroopers. Heavily armed, identical, and intimidating behind their helmet visors, they were everywhere the Empire needed them to be—usually *en masse*.







OTHER VILLAINS AND ROGUES



Ranking below (but only just) the Sith and the Imperials, was another class of villains, often unaffiliated with any government, movement, or ancient religion. Some of these villains were genuinely evil, while others were simply morally ambiguous enough to overlook the suffering of others if there was a profit to be made.



Asajj Ventress in her younger days. Adopted and trained by a Jedi Master who had crash-landed on her war-torn homeworld of Rattatak, Ventress was discovered by Count Dooku. He convinced her that the Jedi had abandoned her now-deceased Master and turned her to the dark side for his own use.



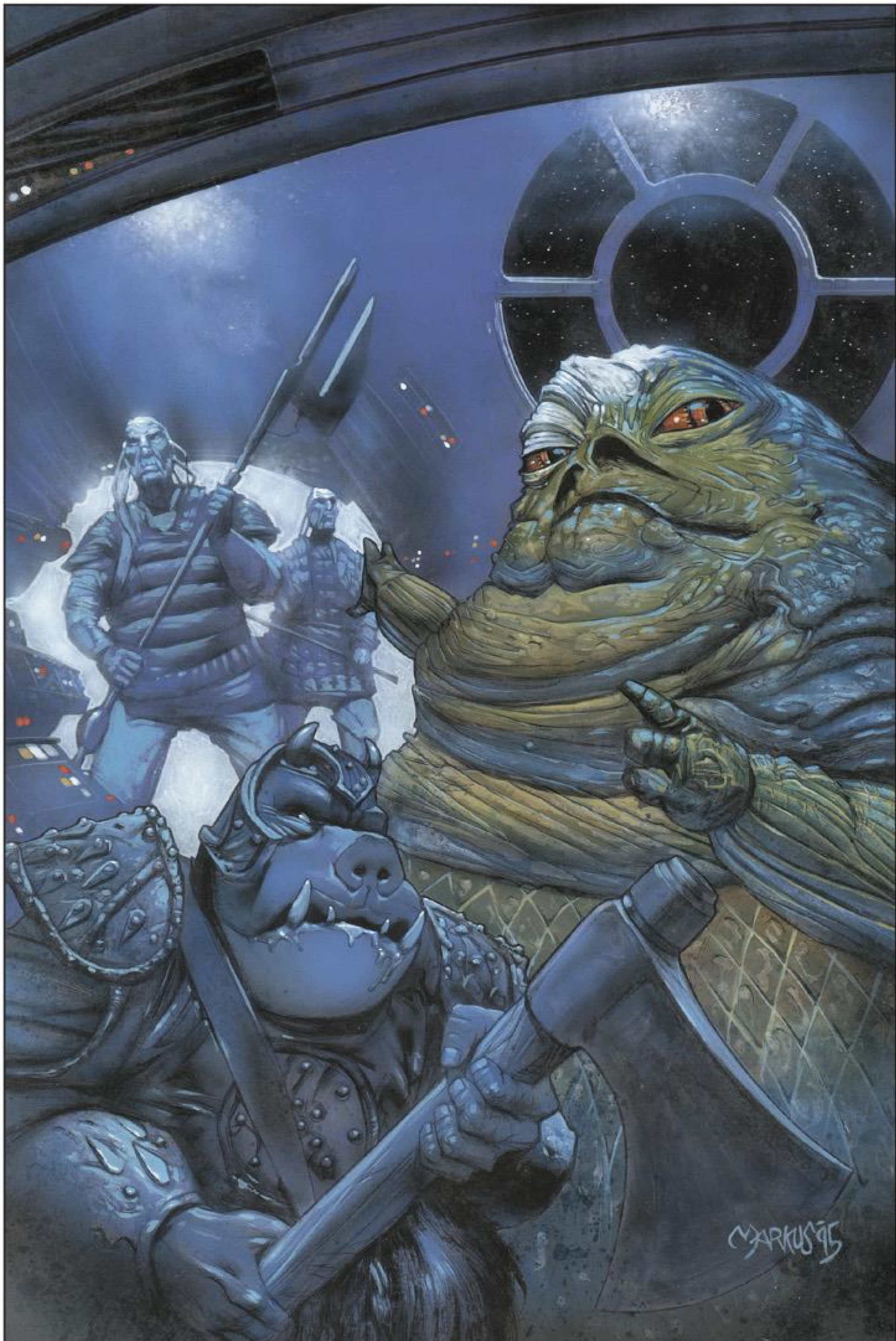
As a dark Jedi, Asajj became *Commander Ventress*, leading some of Dooku's droid armies against the forces of the Republic. Here she is seen alongside former bounty hunter turned Jedi-killer Durge.



Durge is talking about Jedi. That's Obi-Wan under his foot.



The instigator behind many plots, His Immenseness, Jabba the Hutt.





Thief, sneak, provocateur, cheat, and galaxy-class liar, Vilmarh Grahrk (known to his friends and enemies alike as “Villie”) worked, at one time or another, for everyone from Darth Sidious to the Jedi—but always with an eye toward double-crossing his employers. A rogue, but an endearing one, he always managed to escape with his skin intact.



When Villie encountered Quinlan Vos, a Jedi who had lost his memory, he delighted in manipulating what he liked to call his "pet Jedi." The fun lasted until Master Vos got his memory back.



The man who would be emperor. Carnor Jax was the best of Palpatine's elite Imperial Guards. Some seven years after the events in *Return of the Jedi*, Jax's greed for power—and the discovery of his own slight abilities with the Force—led him to betray his cloned master and his fellow guardsmen.

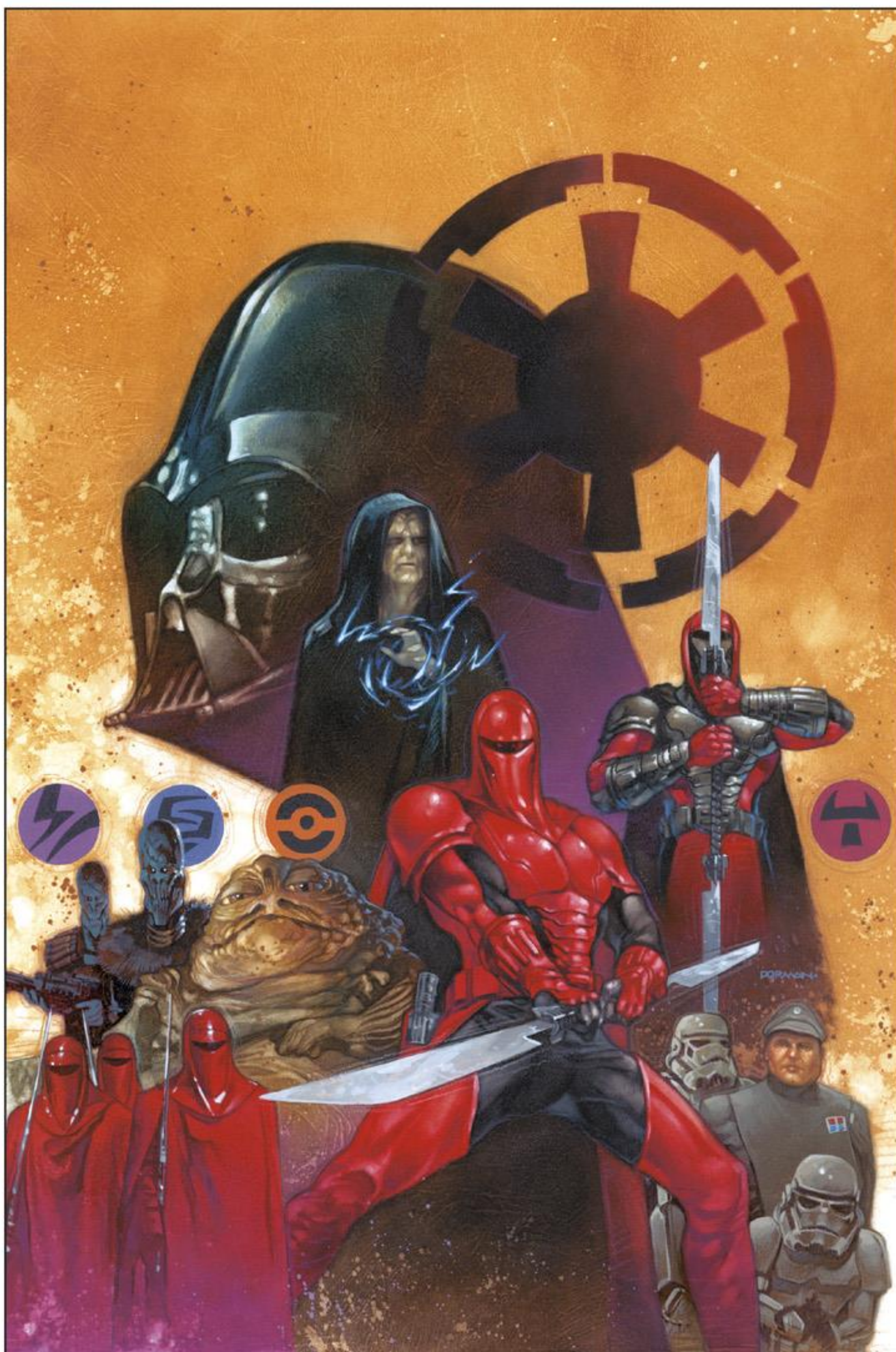


In his bid for control over the remnants of Palpatine's empire, Jax surrounded himself with specially trained, black-clad stormtroopers.



Carnor Jax's one mistake was allowing Kir Kanos—also an Imperial Guard—to survive the ambush that killed their fellows. Loyal to the memory of the dead Palpatine and the honor of the squad, Kanos made it his mission to destroy Jax... and any who stood with him.





Though by this time both were deceased, the past actions of Palpatine and Vader informed the choices made by all of the players in *Crimson Empire*. (Note: that's not Jabba, it's Grappa, a major power in the criminal organization Black Sun.)



After Carnor Jax's short-lived reign had ended, an Imperial Interim Council—whose members had been secretly involved in Jax's plot against Palpatine—became the focus of Kir Kanos' vendetta. (Note: the character on the far left was modeled on Lucasfilm's own Lucy Wilson.)

BOUNTY HUNTERS



Some of the most famous characters in the *Star Wars* mythos are bounty hunters—men, women, and aliens living on the fringes of the law, and hunting their fellow sentients for a living.



With a bounty on his head for the assassination of Carnor Jax, former Imperial Guard Kir Kanos made a name for himself as bounty hunter Kenix Kil so that Kil would be hired to track down Kanos, thus assuring that he, Kanos, would never be found. Confused yet?

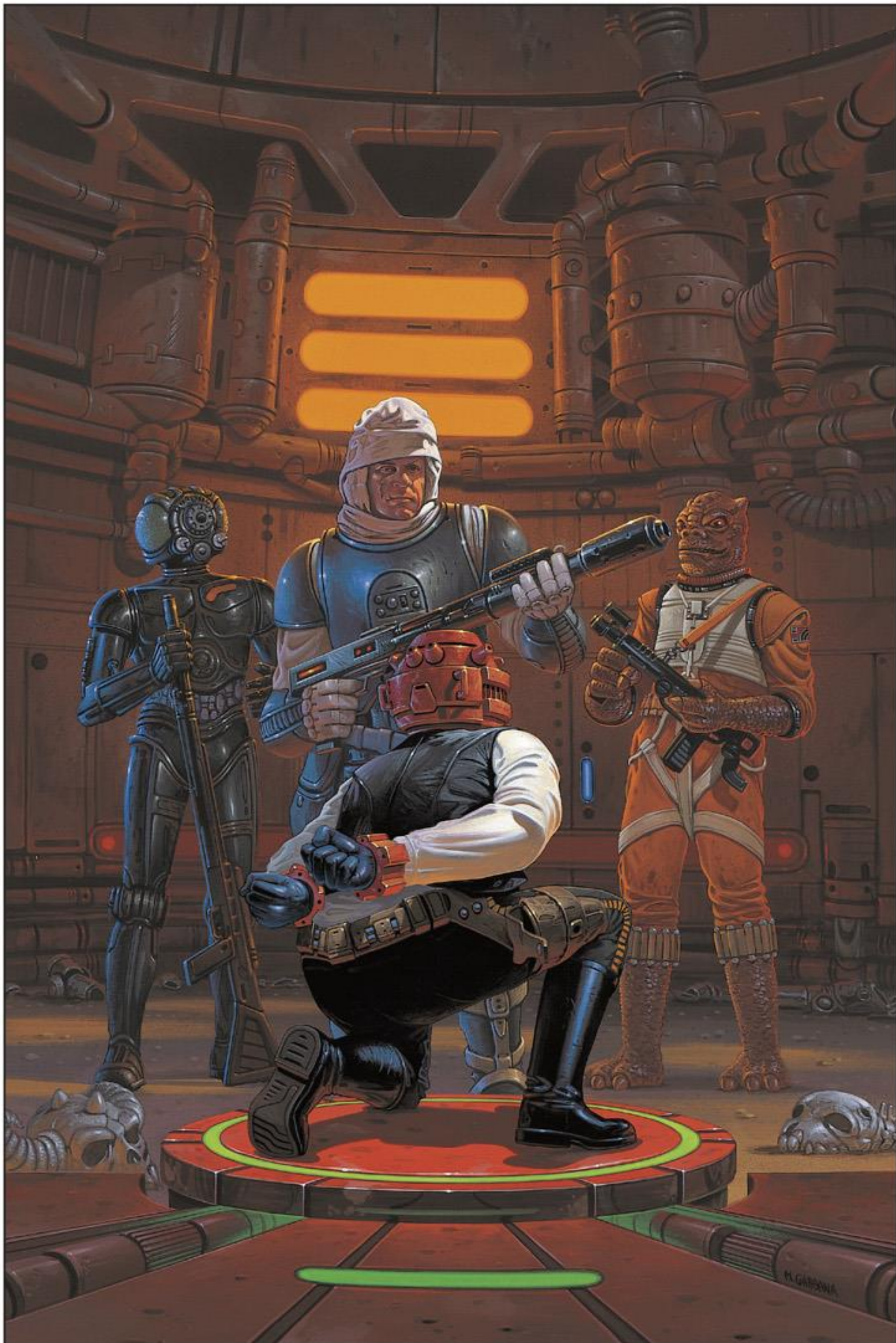


Once a Jedi Padawan herself, bounty hunter Aurra Sing's specialty was killing Jedi for fun and profit (she had quite a collection of trophy lightsabers). However, she was adept at dealing with other adversaries, as well.

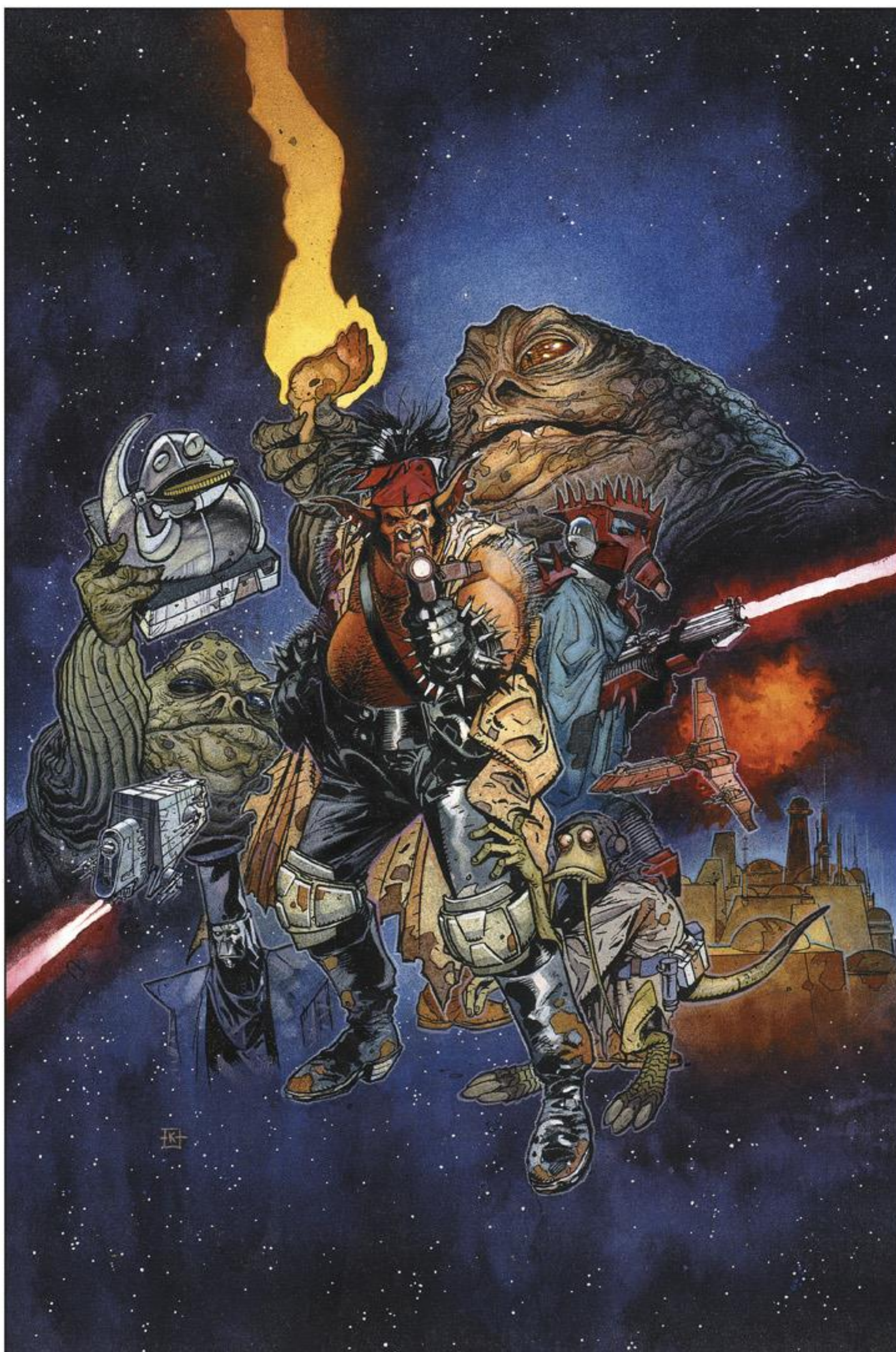




Aurra's Jedi-hunting ways eventually landed her in prison—but never for very long. A resourceful survivor, for a while she even possessed Jango Fett's ship *Slave I*—after Jango lost his head in *Attack of the Clones*.



Made famous by their brief appearances in *The Empire Strikes Back*, bounty hunters 4-LOM (left), Dengar (center), and Bossk (right) were a continuing source of danger for the heroes of Yavin. The surprise here is that the guy wearing the handcuffs and the Corellian Bloodstripe trousers (Second Class) isn't Han Solo—it's Lando Calrissian.



While not technically bounty hunters, Jabba's henchmen Big Gizz and Spiker were willing to take on virtually any unscrupulous job, no questions asked.



Some bounty hunters lived longer than others because they knew that some bounties just weren't worth the risk...



Clockwise from lower left: 4-LOM, Dengar, Aurra Sing, Kenix Kil, Bossk, and the most famous bounty hunter in the galaxy, Boba Fett. Much was made of Fett's association with "Mandalorian Commandos" in the Expanded Universe before George Lucas revealed the truth of his origins in *Attack of the Clones*. Fans (and comic-book editors) are still trying to sort it out.





Though he had only a couple of lines in *The Empire Strikes Back*, and was done away with in the first twenty minutes of *Return of the Jedi*, fan interest in the mysterious, helmeted bounty hunter continued to run high. Eventually it was learned that Fett clawed his way out of the Sarlacc pit into which he'd fallen and returned to strike fear into the hearts of those with a price on their heads.



Fett did his share of work for the Empire, but he was a free agent, and was occasionally hired for jobs that put him at odds with the powers that be.





While Boba, Jango's clone, became famous—and feared—throughout the galaxy, Jango Fett's most important legacy was without a doubt his contribution to the creation of the clone army first seen in *Attack of the Clones*.



No, you're not seeing double, and neither one of those characters is Boba Fett. It's actually Jango Fett cradling his dying Mandalorian mentor and commanding officer Jaster Mereel, from a scene early in Jango's career—before he went solo as a bounty hunter.

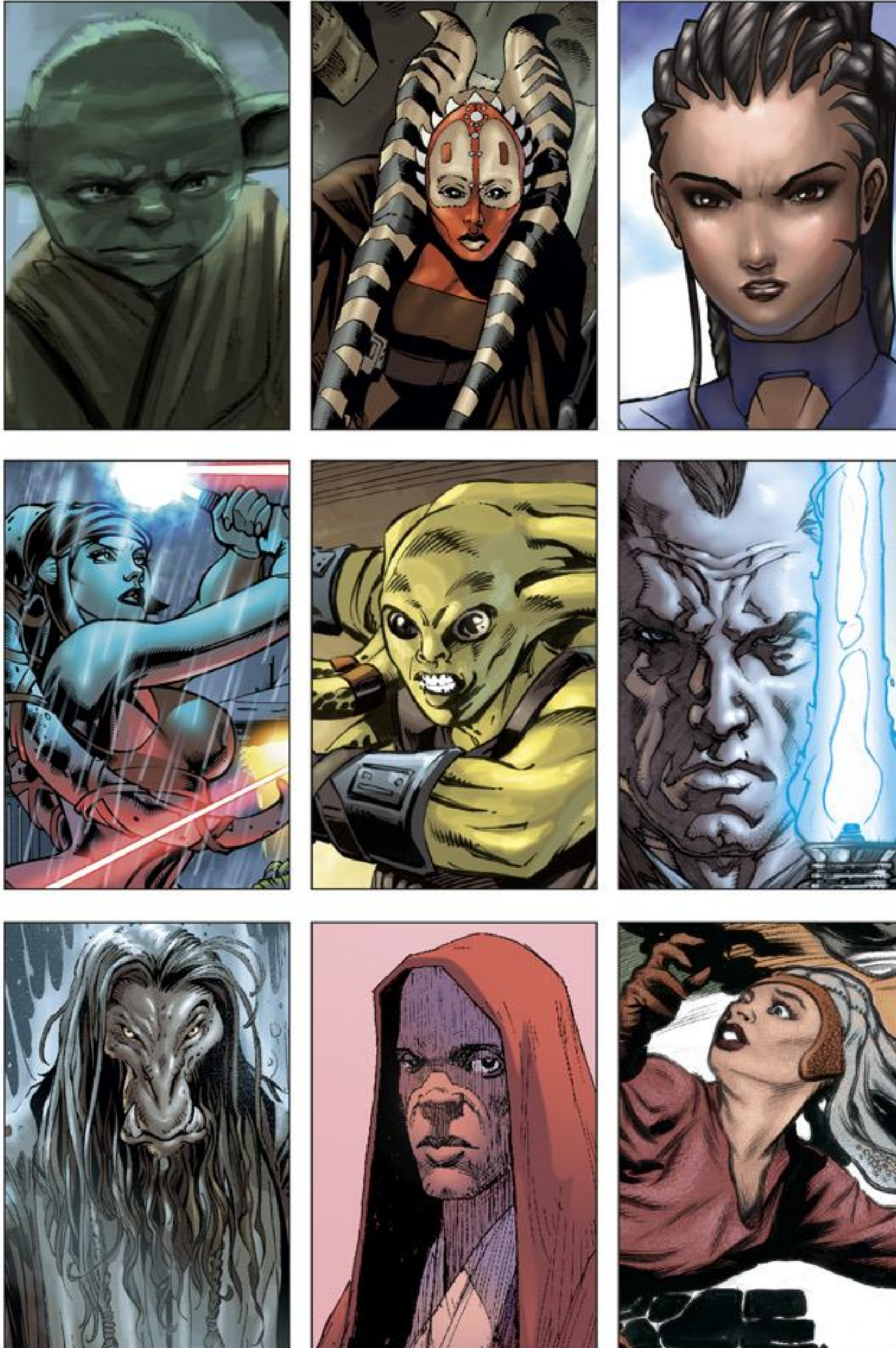


Jango was selected as the DNA donor for the clone army after single-handedly besting a number of Jedi before finally being captured by then-Jedi Master Dooku. When asked how it was Fett managed to kill twenty Jedi, Dooku replied, "With his bare hands."

THE JEDI



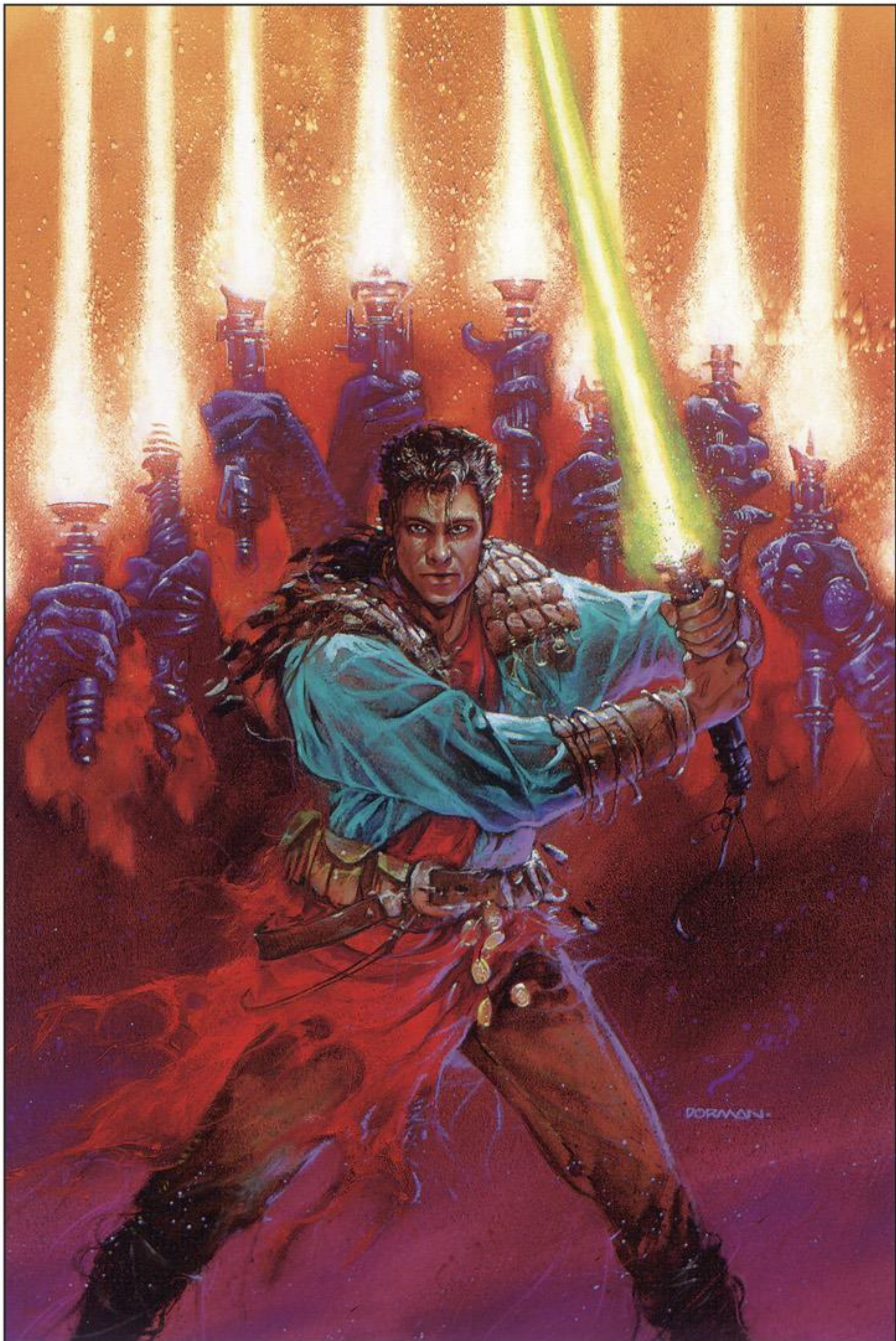
THE PROTECTORS OF THE REPUBLIC



For a thousand generations, they were the champions of the Old Republic. Though their origins are shrouded in the dimness of time, and the details of their fall are yet to be revealed, there is not a kid (or an adult) who has seen the *Star Wars* films who hasn't wished to be a Jedi. More than mystic do-gooders in robes, the Jedi were akin to samurai monks. Calm in the face of adversity but ready for any danger, every Jedi was equipped with mysterious Force powers and the best invention in science fiction and fantasy, bar none—a lightsaber.



Think *Star Wars* is confined to the forty-some-year span encompassed by the films? Not so. One of the earliest projects in which Dark Horse embarked was set four thousand years prior to the events in *A New Hope*. Yoda himself is only about nine hundred years old.



The (Jedi) Knights of the Old Republic faced threats from the Sith, evil conquerors known as the Krath, and from their own delvings into the dark side of the Force. The rise, fall, and redemption of Jedi Ulic Qel-Droma became an epic saga.



In those far-flung days, the Jedi were often called upon to be warriors more than diplomats.



But some found peace, in the end.



Though cut short by Darth Maul's lightsaber, Qui-Gon Jinn's life was not in vain. The lessons he taught his Padawan, Obi-Wan Kenobi, became central to the destruction of the Empire and the redemption of Anakin Skywalker. Next page: The leader of the Jedi Council during the Clone Wars, Mace Windu embodied the ideal combination of reasoned cool and decisive, lightning-fast action.





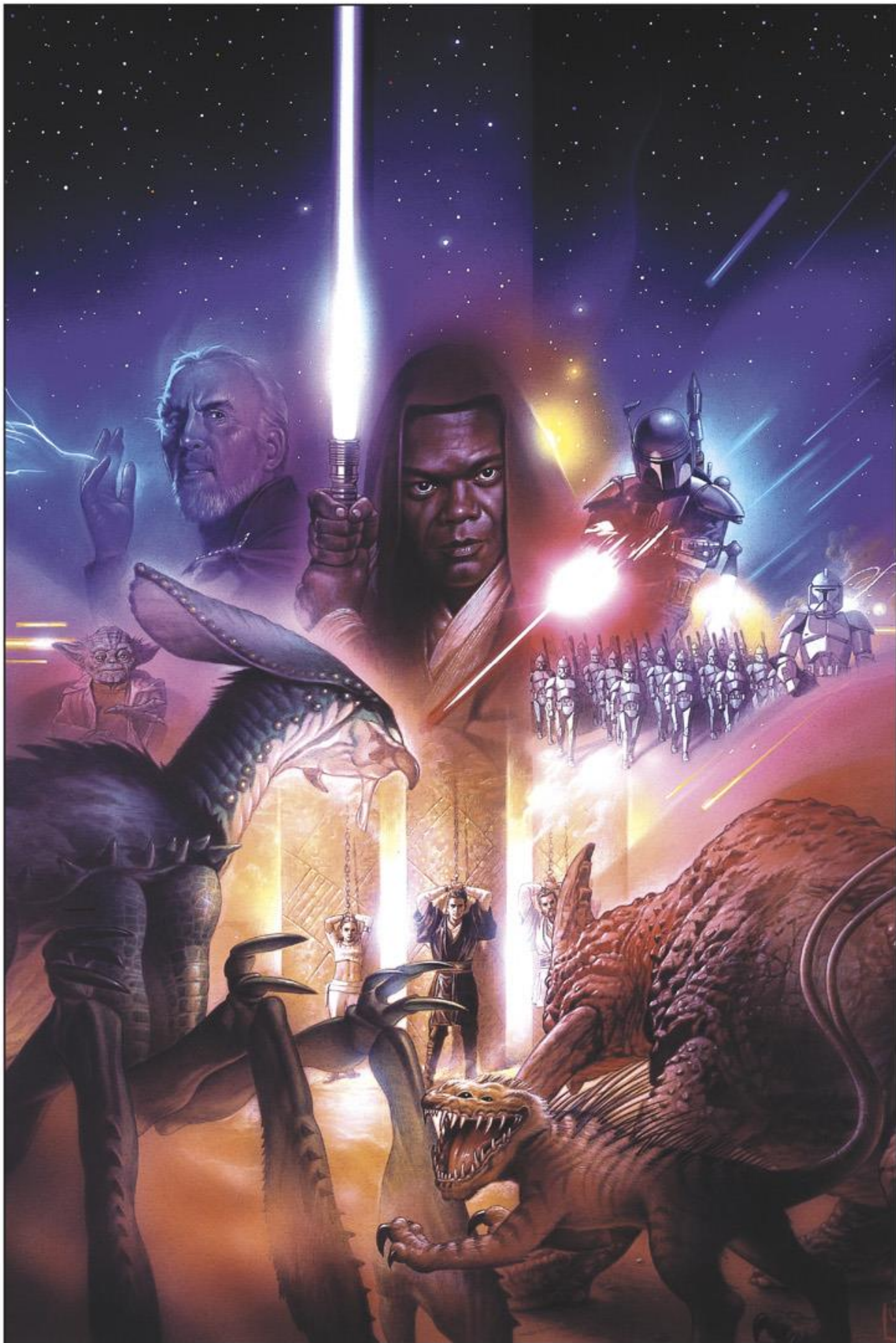
Jedi came in all shapes and sizes—and were recruited from nearly every sentient species in the galaxy. On this spread we have Wookiee Master Tyvokka and Master A'Sharad Hett. Hett lived with the Tusken Raiders (though he himself was human), and adopted many of their ways. After the events in *Attack of the Clones*, his relationship with Anakin Skywalker was somewhat strained.



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The mysterious Jedi known to many only as “the Dark Woman,” had a special desire to see bounty hunter Aurra Sing brought to justice: the Dark Woman had been Aurra’s Master when she was a Jedi-in-training.



Artist Tsuneo Sanda's movie-poster treatment for *Attack of the Clones*. Originally commissioned for the cover to the graphic novel movie adaptation, it was replaced at the last minute by artist Drew Struzan's official poster image. Sanda's image appeared in *Star Wars Tales* #12 (2002).



"A Jedi shall not know love." But apparently nobody said anything about making out... Above, Aayla Secura receives an assist from fellow-Jedi Kit Fisto. Below, Jedi-gone-bad Quinlan Vos and his uh, er, friend Khaleen Hentz.



Aayla Secura again. George Lucas liked the look of Aayla so much that he inserted her into *Attack of the Clones*. It's a good thing creative team John Ostrander and Jan Duursema didn't kill her off as they had originally planned...



The Jedi legacy lives on. Some eight years after the events in *Return of the Jedi*, Luke Skywalker's pupils face a do or die challenge. If they survive, they will have proved themselves worthy of the title Jedi.

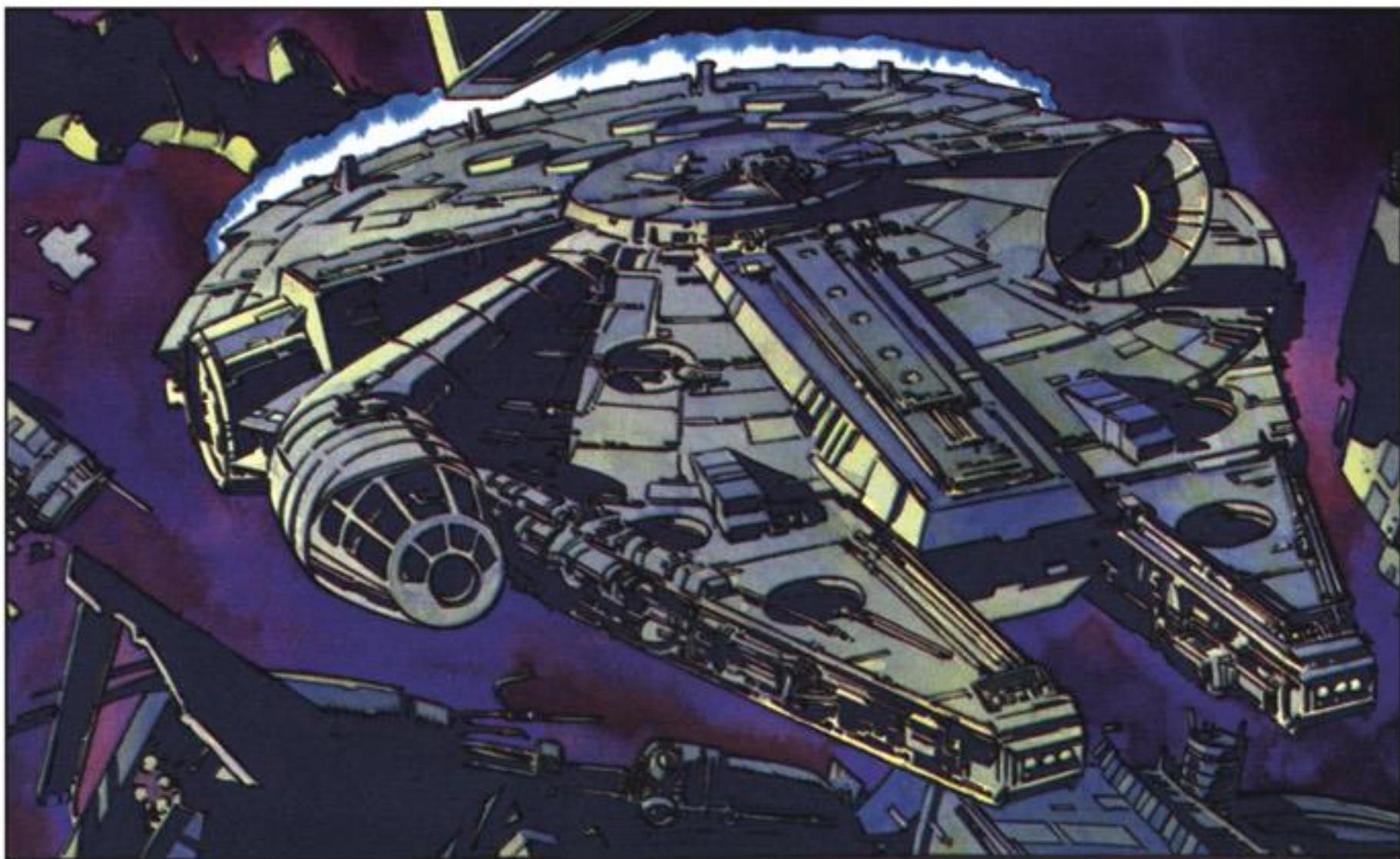
SPACESHIPS

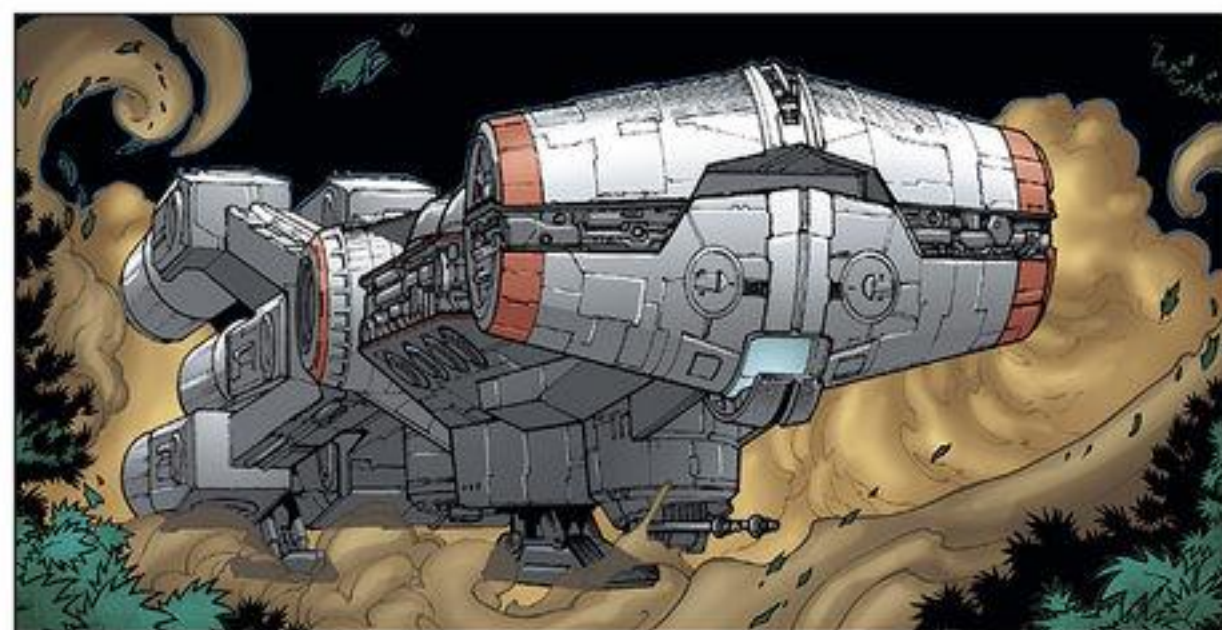


GETTING AROUND THE GALAXY

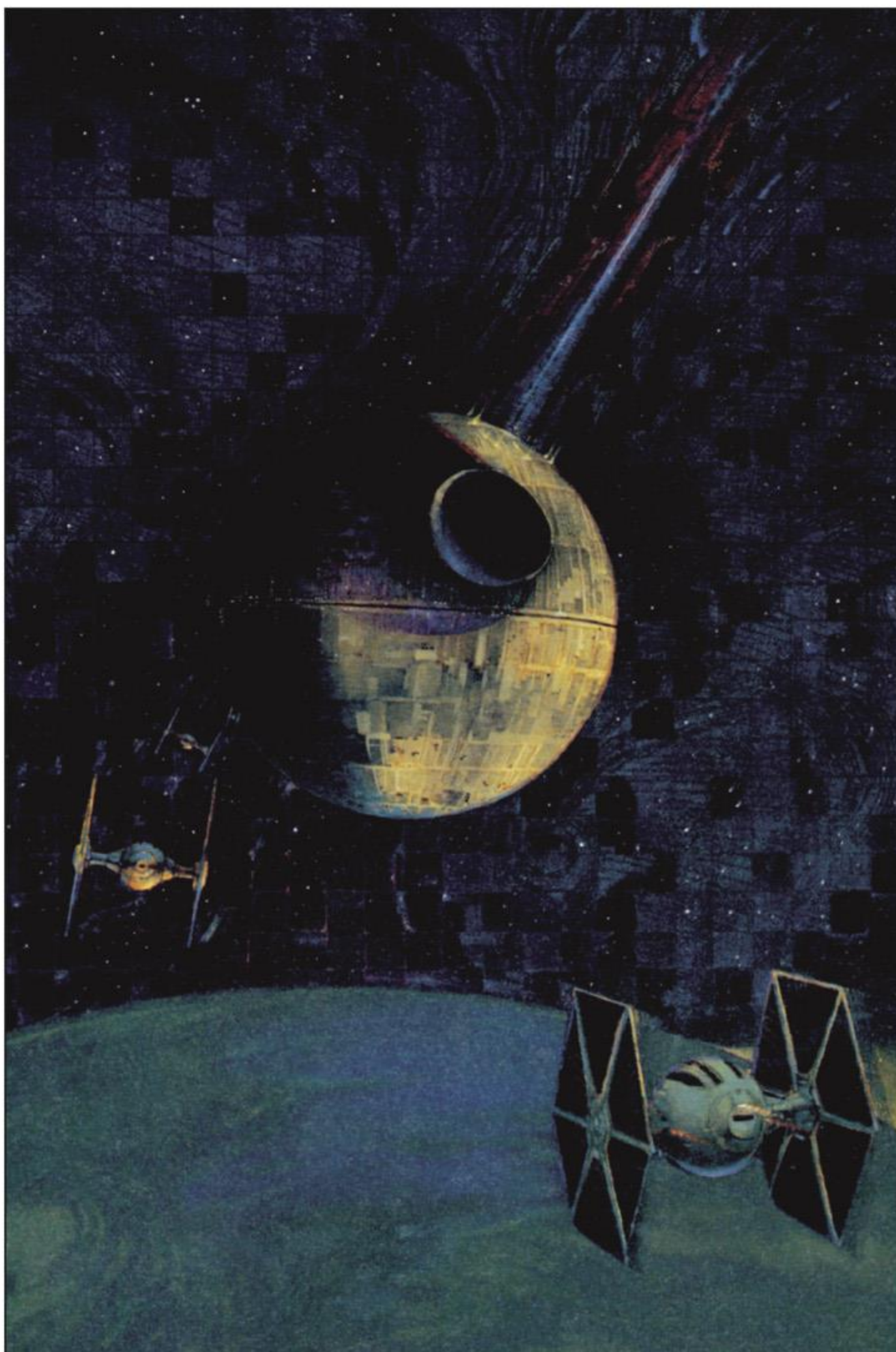


In the real world, even a trip into orbit requires months of planning. Fortunately, thanks to astromech droids and hyperspace travel, in *Star Wars* getting from one end of the galaxy is no more trouble than hopping in one's car for a drive across town. From the gigantic Imperial Star Destroyers to the tiny Rebel snub fighters, the spacecraft in *Star Wars* serve not only as story conveniences, but as potent fuel for the imaginations of the viewers and readers.





Not enough credit has been given to the designers involved in *Star Wars*. Even the spacecraft have personality. Those serving the side of good and freedom reflect a human esthetic in their lines and their color schemes...



...while those built for the Empire are cold and machine-like, with little concern for human need or comfort.





After Vader's breathing and the electrifying hum of a lightsaber's ignition, one of the most recognizable sounds in cinema history is the hoarse scream of an Imperial TIE fighter in pursuit of its prey. And who can forget the awe of seeing for the first time the endless hull of a Star Destroyer slide by in the opening sequence of *A New Hope*? Facing page: Rogue Squadron on patrol for the Rebel Alliance.



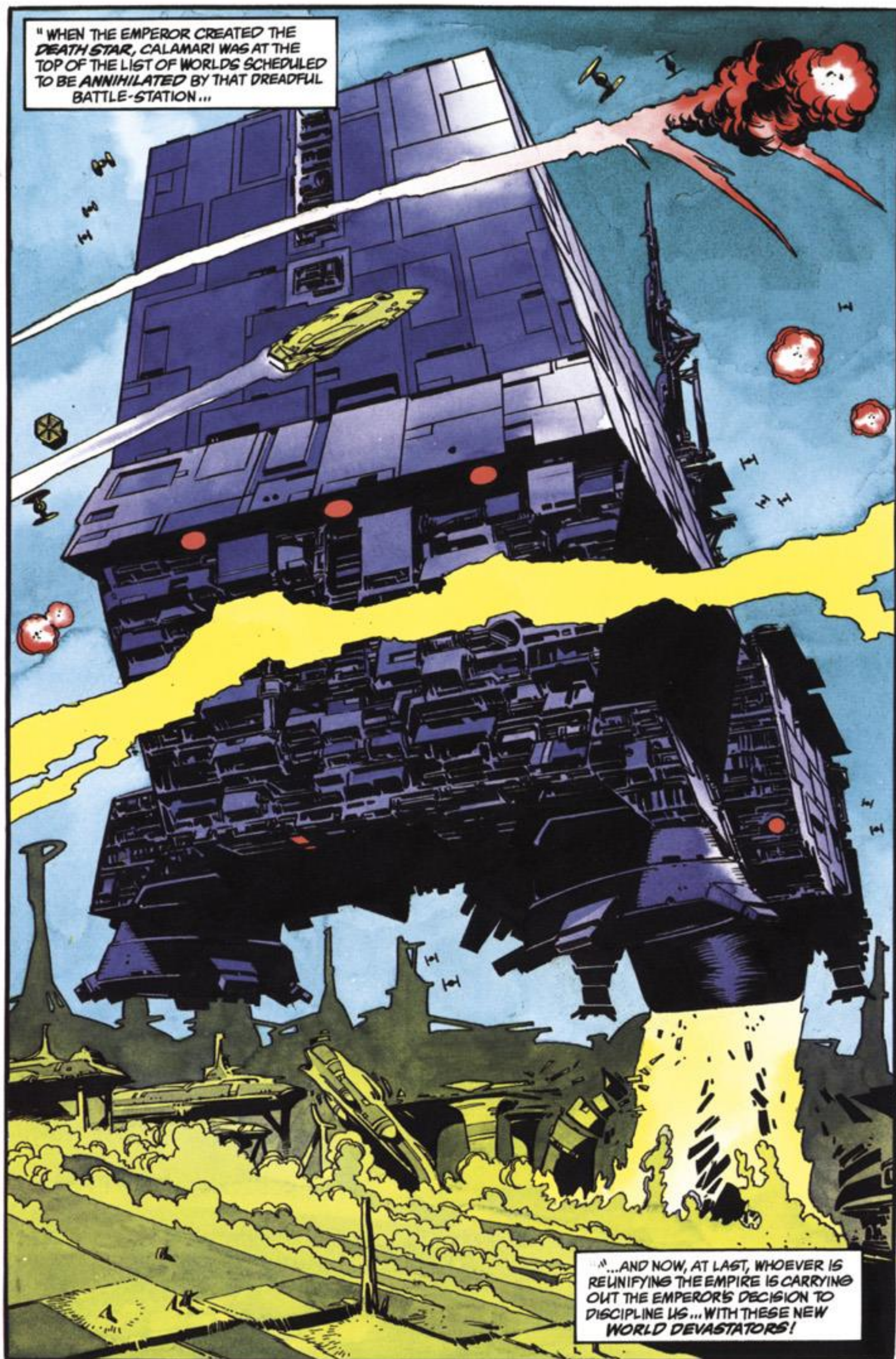
OKAY, WEDGE--
SPILL IT! THIS
SCOUTING MISSION
IS JUST AN EXCUSE
TO GET AWAY FROM
PRYING BOTHAN
EARS, RIGHT?

YES AND NO,
TYCHO. IS YOUR
COMM UNIT LOCKED
IN AND SCRAMBLED,
WES?

I'M
PLUGGED
IN, WEDGE!



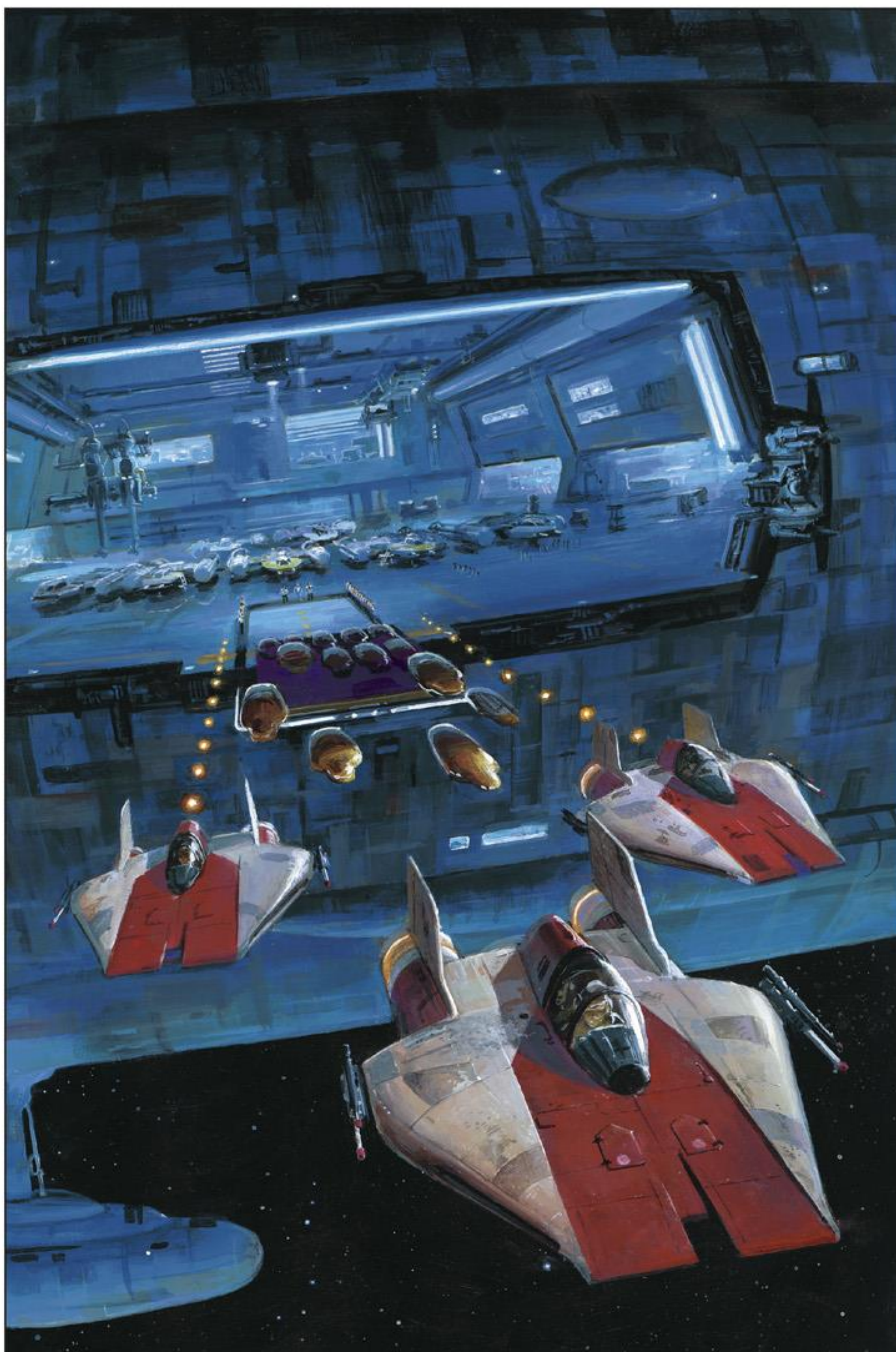
Once planetside, there were other methods of transportation available, but an Imperial speeder bike might not be your first choice...



"WHEN THE EMPEROR CREATED THE *DEATH STAR*, CALAMARI WAS AT THE TOP OF THE LIST OF WORLDS SCHEDULED TO BE ANNIHILATED BY THAT DREADFUL BATTLE-STATION..."

"...AND NOW, AT LAST, WHOEVER IS REUNIFYING THE EMPIRE IS CARRYING OUT THE EMPEROR'S DECISION TO DISCIPLINE US... WITH THESE NEW WORLD DEVASTATORS!"

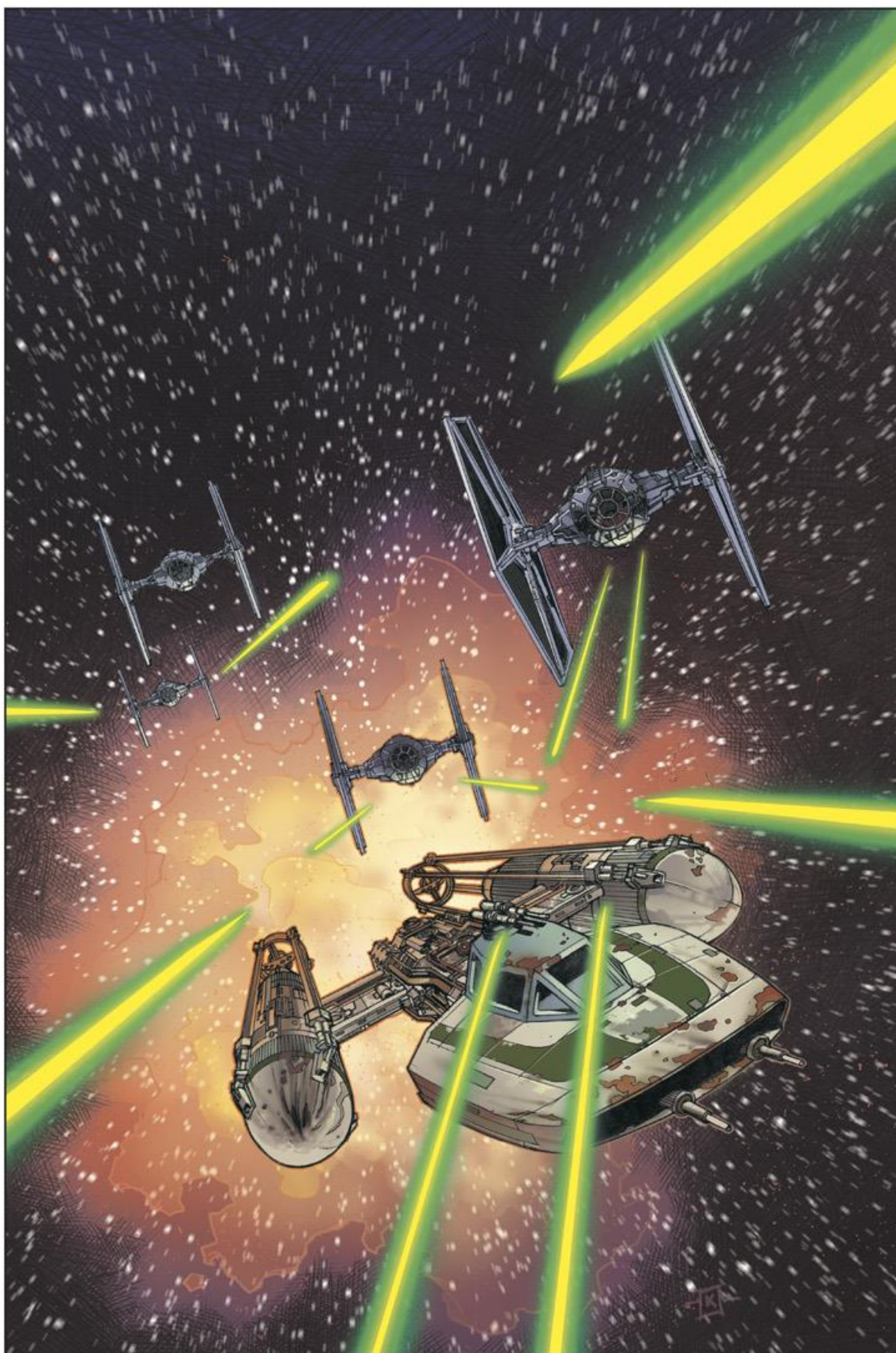




While the X-wing fighter is the most familiar of the craft used by the Rebel Alliance, as the war against the Empire progressed, new fighters were commissioned. These A-wings (first seen in *Return of the Jedi*) here are engaged in a funeral procession. Being a Rebel meant putting one's life on the line on a daily basis.



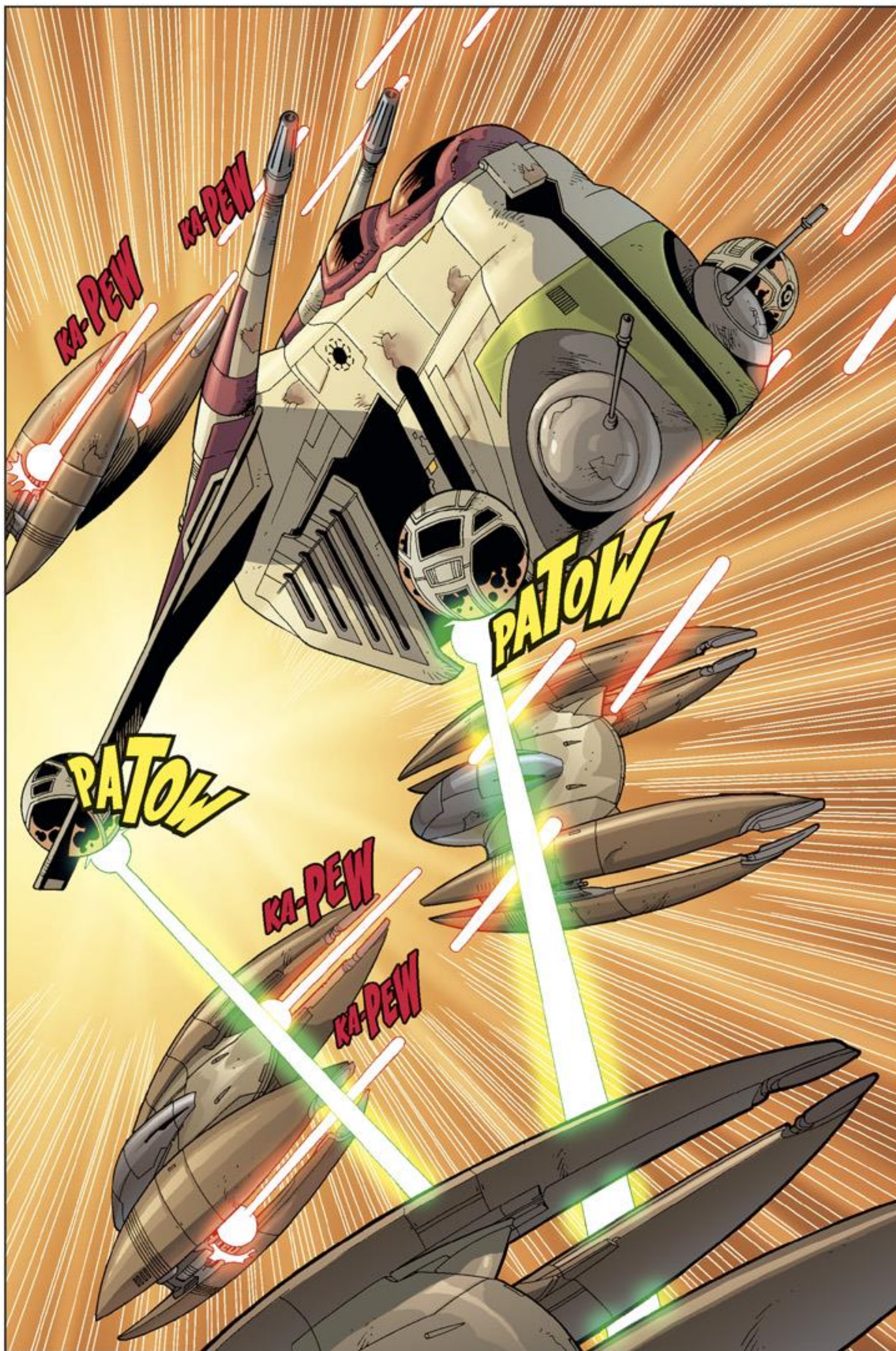
A not uncommon sight: Boba Fett in *Slave I* pursuing Han Solo and Chewbacca in the *Millennium Falcon*.



Expanded Universe sources suggest that the open cage structures behind the Y-wing's engines were originally sheathed in plating—that mechanics quickly discarded in order to provide easier maintenance. Considered obsolete at the time of the Battle of Yavin, the solidly built Y-wing nonetheless served double duty as fighters and fighter-bombers for a number of years to come.



But it was the doughty X-wing that carried the day in *both* battles against Imperial Death Stars.



A recurring theme in *Star Wars*: no matter where you're going, it seems somebody is always trying to prevent you from getting there. In this case, a Republic gunship, circa the Clone Wars, is pursued by Trade Federation droid fighters.

THE WORLDS OF STAR WARS



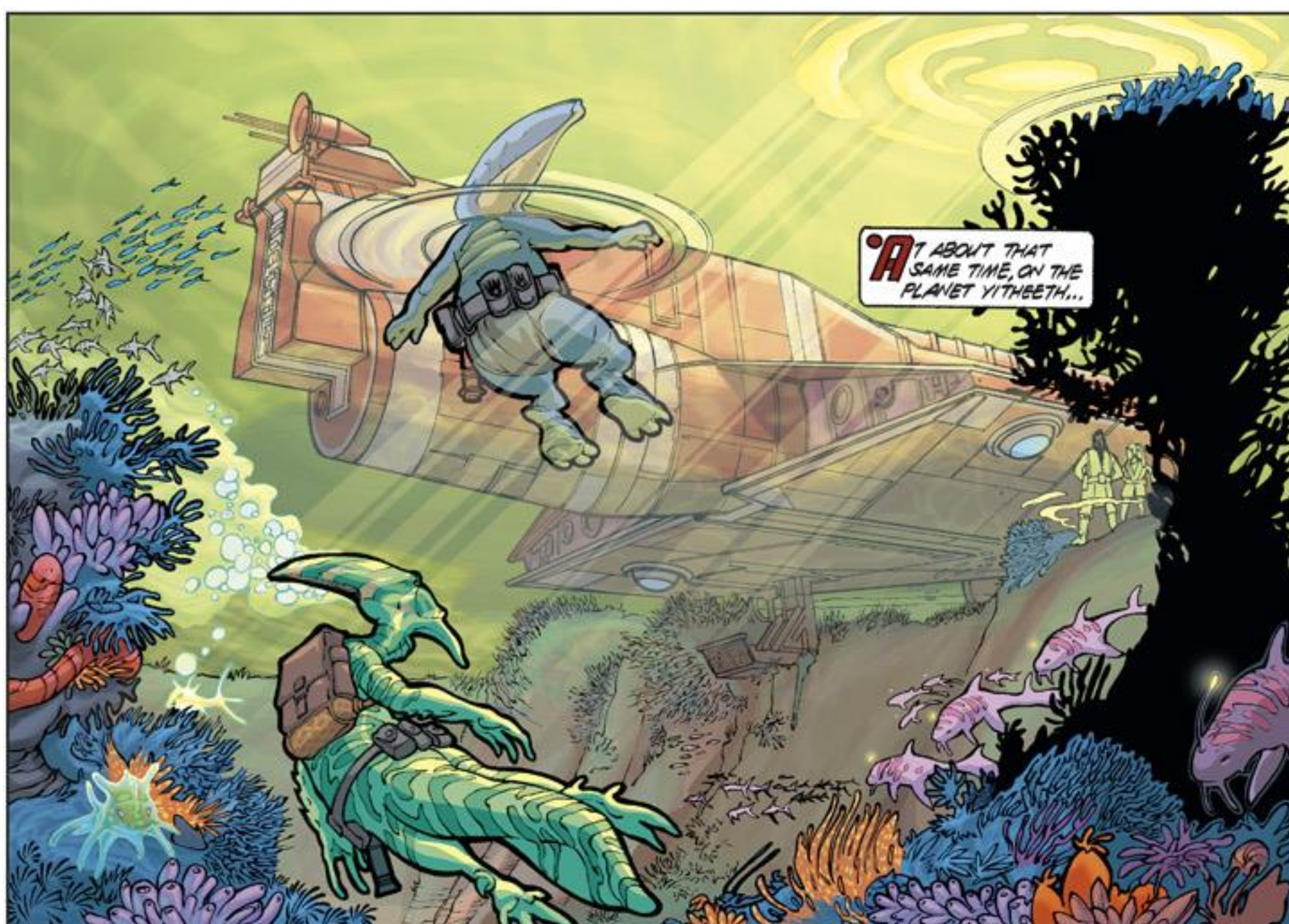
ALIEN WORLDS AND THEIR INHABITANTS



Frightening, amusing, or wonderful, the many alien species that populate the galaxy are an undeniable component of *Star Wars*' allure. For what would an exotic new world be without exotic new creatures—some friendly (or at least approachable), and some deadly dangerous? Ancient civilizations, bizarre technologies, and fantastic flora and fauna are to be expected with each new locale. And there's no doubt we have been shown but the tip of the iceberg; at the height of the Republic, its members hailed from over one hundred thousand planetary systems!



There was a single, vaguely threatening Amanin (sometimes referred to as Amanaman) lurking among Jabba the Hutt's cronies in *Return of the Jedi*. These unfortunate stormtroopers have discovered what the jungle-dwelling aliens are like when they get together in a group.



From the banthas and dewbacks that wander the desert wastes of Tatooine, to the aquatic wonders inhabiting the shallow seas of Yitheeth, life abounds in the *Star Wars* galaxy.



Most sentient creatures are roughly humanoid in configuration—in that they possess two arms and two legs. But it's not a hard and fast rule, as Rebel agent Morgan Katarn discovered when he encountered the “bouncers” on the desert world of Ruusan.



Wherever you go in the *Star Wars* galaxy, you know *where* you are. Tatooine doesn't look like Naboo, Abregado-Rae (top) doesn't look like Ossus (bottom), and there's no place in the universe like Coruscant (opposite).



At its core, *Star Wars* is about the struggle between good and evil, light and darkness, and between freedom and tyranny. It is a struggle played out across thousands of years, on countless worlds. Only battles are won, never the war. The spirit of freedom faces never-ending challenges.



DORMANI



Even when it's a battle against the elements, it's rarely about simple survival. Instead, it's about helping a friend—or an old paramour—even at the risk of one's own life.



And sometimes it is just about survival—as one species fights another for its place in the sun...



...or its corner of the ocean...



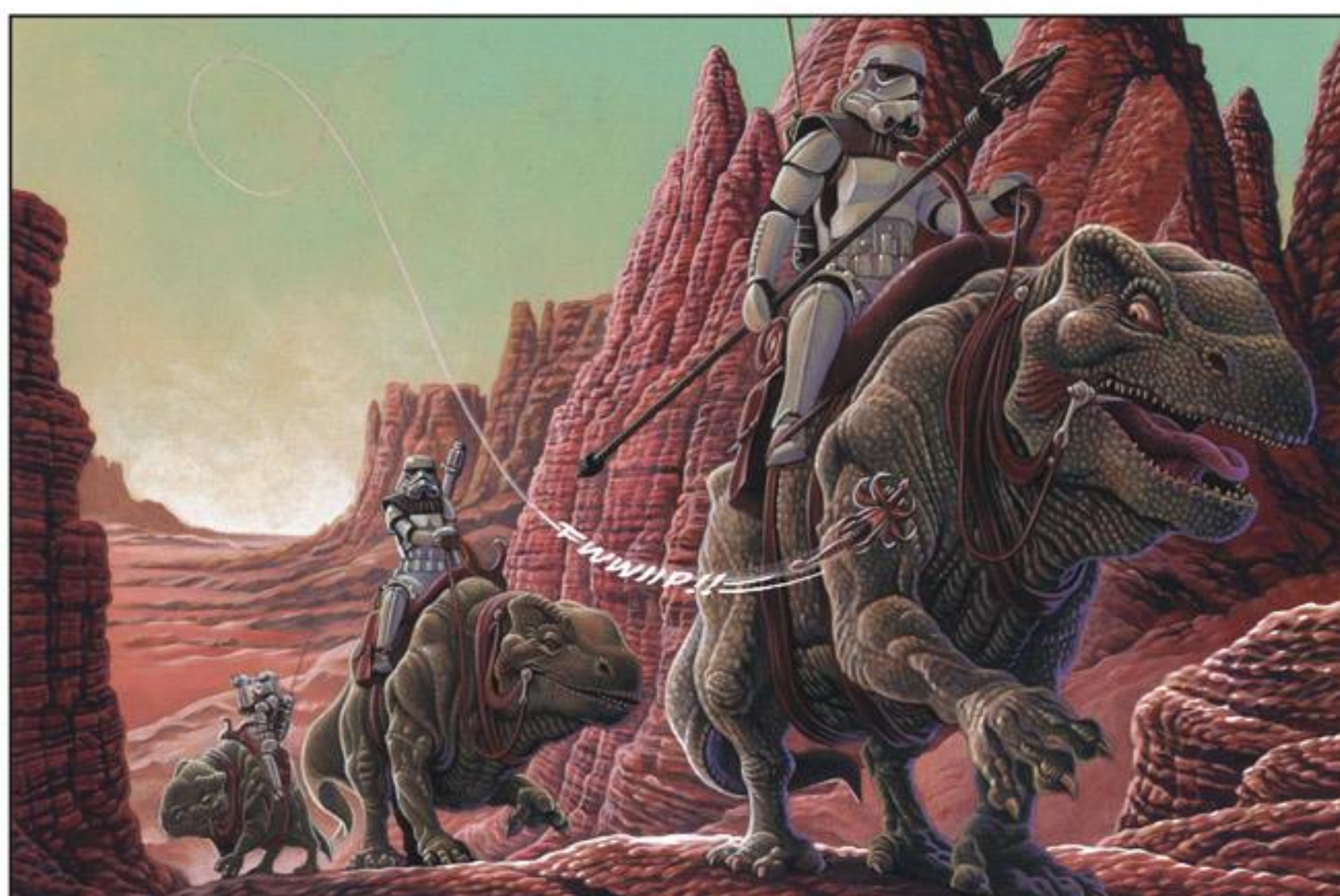
...or your spot in its belly.



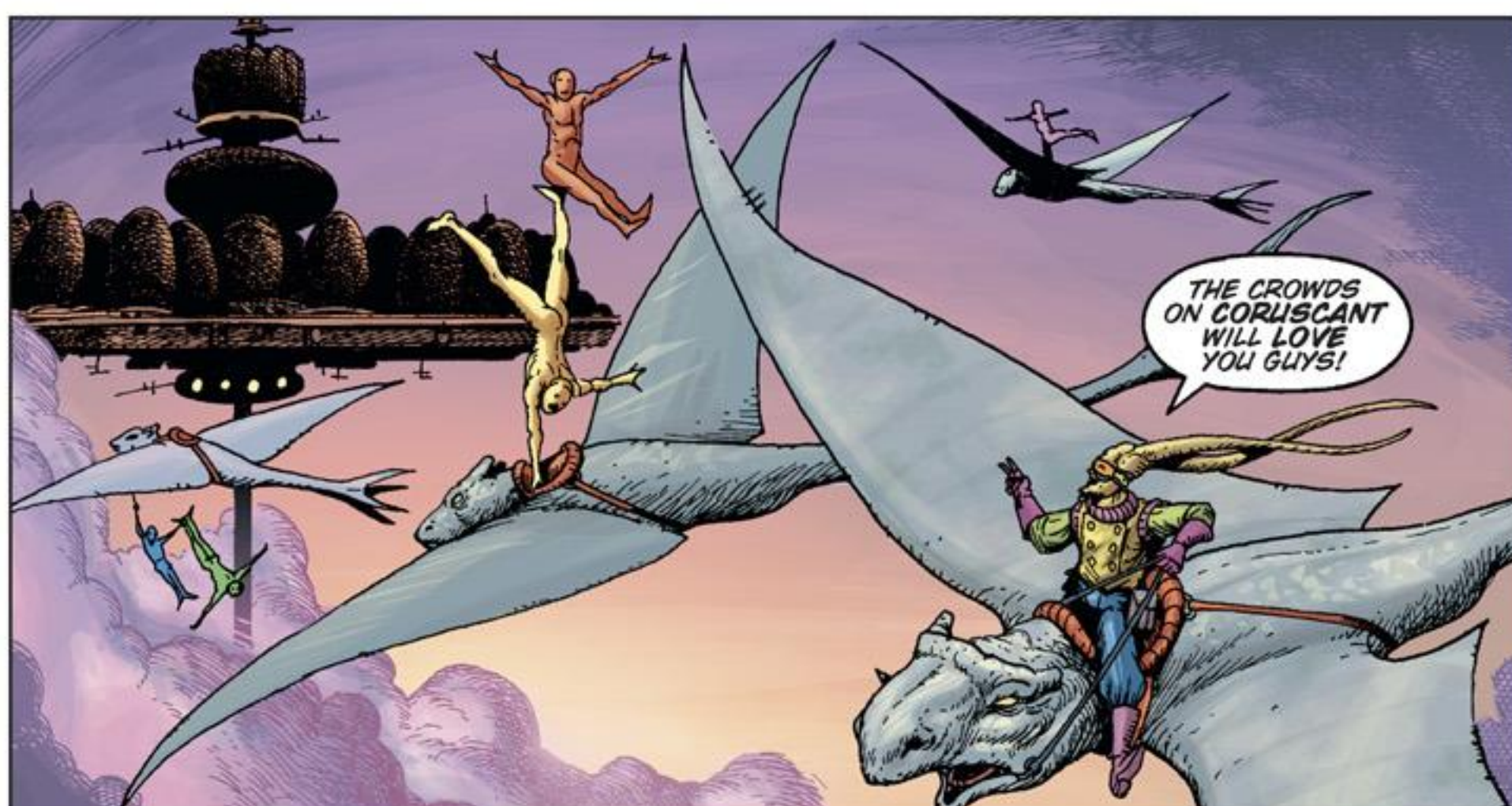
Throughout the *Star Wars* timeline, the contrast of the familiar with the alien provides a continuous backdrop of romance, adventure, danger, and mystery.



DORMAN









And let us not forget—along with all of the organic life-forms in the galaxy, there exists a mechanical contingent: the droids. Some are nearly human in their behavior, while others are purely cold and functional—sometimes to a menacing degree. Note: a combat knife is not among the tools recommended for probe droid maintenance.



Even the meekest droid can become a force to be reckoned with given the right impetus, as Artoo and Threepio proved when they led a “rebellion” against a criminal intent on wiping the memories of a barge full of stolen droids.



All hail...Threepio? As with all glory, this moment was fleeting.



From the inorganic to the super-organic: Chewbacca's homecoming. Think Wookiees are big? Check out the trees on their homeworld of Kashyyyk (the third "y" is silent).



But mechanical or biological—or anywhere in-between—good and evil are forever at odds with one another in the *Star Wars* galaxy. That's the way it was at the birth of the Old Republic, and it will remain so even after the last glimmer of memory of the New Republic fades. Which means we can look forward to new adventures for years to come...



--WE'VE GOT
A DATE WITH THE
DARK SIDE!



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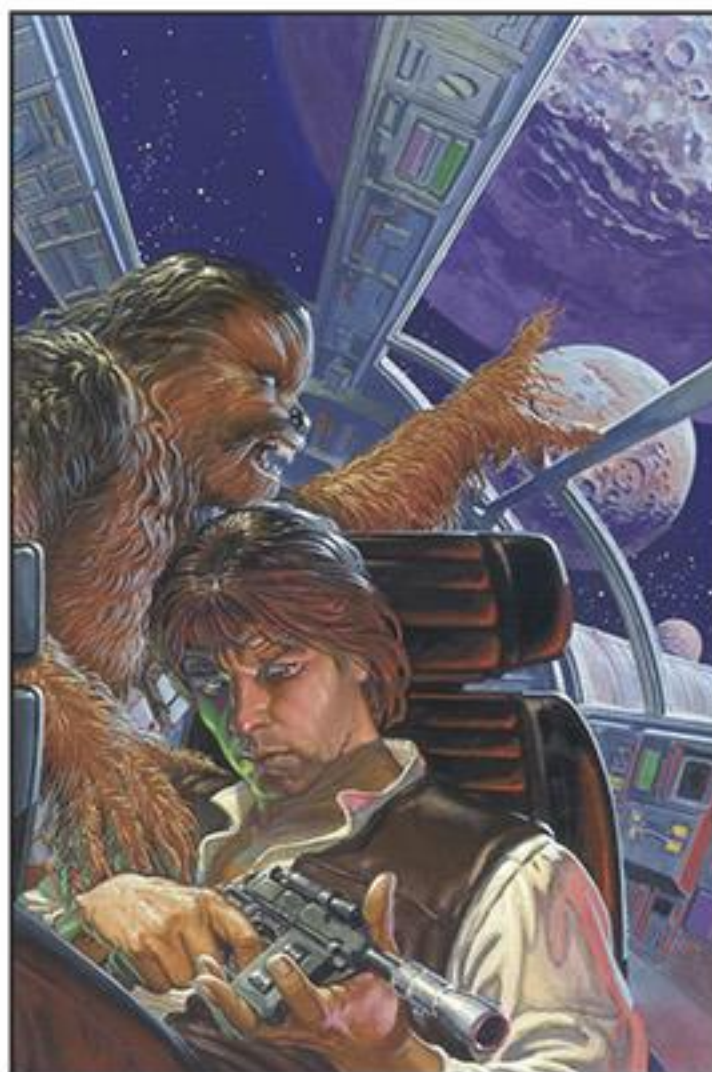
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Tomás Giorello, pencils	Howard K. Shum, inks
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Mark Harrison, art	Sno Cone Studios, colors
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Fabio Laguna, inks	Weems Joe inks
Mattieu Lauffray, art	Doug Wheatley, pencils
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Rick Leonardi, pencils	Rick Zombo, pencils

STAR WARS COMICS TIMELINE (IN YEARS)

<p>The Golden Age of the Sith—5,000 BSW4</p> <p>Fall of the Sith Empire—5,000 BSW4</p> <p>Knights of the Old Republic—4,000 BSW4</p> <p>The Freedon Nadd Uprising—3,998 BSW4</p> <p>Dark Lords of the Sith—3,997 BSW4</p> <p>Sith War—3,996 BSW4</p> <p>Redemption—3,986 BSW4</p> <p>Jedi vs. Sith—1000 BSW4</p> <p>Qui-Gon & Obi-Wan—38-37 BSW4</p> <p>Jedi Council—33.5 BSW4</p> <p>Darth Maul—33 BSW4</p> <p>Republic—32-0 BSW4</p> <p>Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace—32 BSW4</p> <p>The Bounty Hunters—Aurra Sing—32+ BSW4</p> <p>Jedi Quest—28 BSW4</p> <p>Jango Fett—27 BSW4</p> <p>Zam Wesell—27 BSW4</p> <p>Starfighter—24 BSW4</p> <p>Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones—22 BSW4</p> <p>Jedi—22 BSW4</p> <p>Droids—10-5 BSW4</p> <p>Jabba the Hutt: Art of the Deal—5 BSW4</p> <p>Underworld—1 BSW4</p> <p>Classic Star Wars: Han Solo at Stars' End—10-0 BSW4</p> <p>Boba Fett: Enemy of the Empire—3-0 BSW4</p> <p>Empire—0 BSW4</p> <p>Star Wars: Episode IV—A New Hope—SW4</p> <p>Vader's Quest—0+ ASW4</p> <p>Classic Star Wars: The Early Adventures—0+ ASW4</p> <p>River of Chaos—0+ ASW4</p> <p>Classic Star Wars—0-3 ASW4</p> <p>Shadow Stalker—0-3 ASW4</p> <p>Splinter of the Mind's Eye—2 ASW4</p> <p>Star Wars: Episode V—The Empire Strikes Back—3 ASW4</p> <p>Tales From Mos Eisley—3 ASW4</p> <p>Shadows of the Empire—3+ ASW4</p> <p>The Bounty Hunters: Scoundrel's Wages—3+ ASW4</p> <p>Star Wars: Episode VI—Return of the Jedi—4 ASW4</p> <p>Jabba the Hutt: The Jabba Tape—4 ASW4</p> <p>Mara Jade—4 ASW4</p> <p>Shadows of the Empire—Evolution—4 ASW4</p> <p>Classic Star Wars: The Vandelhelm Mission—4+ ASW4</p> <p>X-Wing Rogue Squadron—4+ ASW4</p> <p>Boba Fett: Twin Engines of Destruction—5 ASW4</p> <p>Heir to the Empire—9 ASW4</p> <p>Dark Force Rising—9 ASW4</p> <p>The Last Command—9 ASW4</p> <p>Dark Empire—10+ ASW4</p> <p>Boba Fett: Death, Lies, and Treachery—10+ ASW4</p> <p>Boba Fett: Agent of Doom—10+ ASW4</p> <p>Empire's End—11 ASW4</p> <p>Crimson Empire—11+ ASW4</p> <p>The Bounty Hunters: Kenix Kil—11+ ASW4</p> <p>Jedi Academy: Leviathan—13 ASW4</p> <p>Union—20 ASW4</p> <p>Chewbacca—25 ASW4</p>	     	<p>Old Republic Era 25,000 – 1000 years before Star Wars: A New Hope</p> <p>Rise of the Empire Era 1000 – 0 years before Star Wars: A New Hope</p> <p>Rebellion Era 0 – 5 years after Star Wars: A New Hope</p> <p>New Republic Era 5 – 25 years after Star Wars: A New Hope</p> <p>New Jedi Order Era 25+ years after Star Wars: A New Hope</p> <p>Infinitities Does not apply to timeline</p>
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A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS...

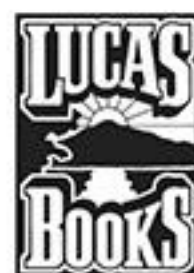
...and nobody knows the value of a compelling image better than the artists who draw and paint for a storytelling medium in which visual art serves both as the *message* and the *vehicle* for that message: comic books.

Since 1991, Dark Horse Comics has employed a virtual army of artists worldwide in the production of comics stories set in *Star Wars* graphic novels. From the films' lead characters to the Expanded Universe's most obscure individuals—human or alien—each has been vividly brought to life in nearly two hundred extended story lines.

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